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THE ARMY.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY.

W. T. Sherman, General of the Army of the United States.

Colonel W. D. Whipple, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Arms for protection against Indians.—Referring to an endorsement upon a communication of the commanding officer of Fort McKavett, Texas, relative to issuing to citizens arms and ammunition to protect themselves against hostile Indians, Adjutant-General Townsend, July 10, 1872, called attention to the report and views of the Chief of Ordnance, approved by the Secretary of War, which says: "The Secretary of War, on April 29, 1870, forbade the further issue of arms to individuals or corporations as loans, but authorized the sale to such parties for protection, when approved by the department commander. Spencer carbines and ammunition can be sold at San Antonio Arsenal on the foregoing terms, if so ordered. The carbine is worth \$25, and the ammunition \$18 per thousand." April 25, 1873, the Adjutant-General referred this endorsement to the commanding officer Department of California, inviting attention to this action of the department prohibiting the issue of arms to individuals or corporations as loans, and also to G. O. No. 81, of 1872, from the War Department, by which the authority for the sale of arms to such parties for protection, is withdrawn, in accordance with existing law, and says: "There is therefore now no authority for either the issue or sale of arms or other ordnance stores in such cases, and officers will be held strictly to account for any violation on their part, of the orders of the department on the subject."

GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL ORDERS.

G. C.-M. O. No. 52, Washington, November 18, 1873.—Before a General Court-martial which convened at Ringgold Barracks, Texas, August 18, 1873, of which Colonel Edward Hatch, Ninth Cavalry, is president, First Lieutenant Charles L. Davis, Tenth Infantry, was arraigned and tried, and found guilty of Charge I.—"Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." Charge II.—"Delivering, or causing to be delivered to another person authorized to receive the same, less public property than was received for, in violation of an act of Congress entitled 'An act to prevent and punish frauds upon the Government of the United States,' approved March 2, 1863." And the court does therefore sentence him, "To be dismissed the service of the United States." The proceedings of the General Court-martial in the foregoing case of First Lieutenant Charles L. Davis, Tenth Infantry, are approved. On the recommendation of the Judge-Advocate-General, in consideration of the previous good character of accused, and of a reasonable doubt of fraudulent intent, derived from the testimony, the findings and sentence are disapproved. First Lieutenant Charles L. Davis, Tenth Infantry, will be released from arrest and restored to duty.

G. C.-M. O. No. 54, Washington, November 19, 1873.—Before a General Court-martial which convened at Fort Concho, Texas, August 29, 1873, of which Colonel Henry B. Clift, Tenth Infantry, is president, First Lieutenant Gustave H. Radetzki, Ninth Cavalry, was arraigned and tried, and found guilty of Charge I.—"Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." And the court does therefore sentence him, "To be dismissed the service." The proceedings, findings, and sentence are approved by the President, and First Lieutenant Gustave H. Radetzki, Ninth Cavalry, accordingly ceases to be an officer of the Army from the date of this order.

G. C.-M. O. No. 55, Washington, November 20, 1873.—Before a General Court-martial which convened at Fort Hays, Kas., Oct. 7, 1873, of which Colonel De L. Floyd-Jones, Third Infantry, is president, Captain C. E. Nesmith, Sixth Cavalry, was arraigned and tried, and found guilty of Charge I.—"Drunkenness on duty, in violation of the 45th Article of War." Charge II.—"Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." The court, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, Captain C. E. Nesmith, Sixth Cavalry, guilty of these several charges. And the court does therefore sentence him, "To be cashiered." Four of the members of the court recommend clemency in view, as they state, "of the fact of the excellent character borne by accused, and because of his former excellent services during the late rebellion, and since." Brigadier-General Pope, commanding the Department of the Missouri, concurs in the recommendation, and calls attention, as an additional reason for his action, to a pledge of accused to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquor so long as he remains in the Department of the Missouri. The President is pleased to mitigate the punishment imposed by the sentence to "a suspension from rank and command, and a forfeiture of all pay, except one hundred dollars a month, for the period of twelve months; during which time Captain Nesmith will be confined to the limits of the post at which he was last on duty, or such other post as the department commander may designate."

G. C.-M. O. No. 56, Washington, November 22, 1873.

—Promulgates the proceedings, etc., in the case of a General Court-martial which convened at Newport Barracks, Ky., November 3, 1873, of which Lieutenant-Colonel August V. Kautz, Fifteenth Infantry, is president, in the case of Private George J. De Beck.

ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS

Issued from the War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, for the week ending December 22.

Tuesday, December 16.

Transferred.—Private August Walz, Company D, Second Artillery, to Company A, Fourth Artillery.

Discharged.—Private James Delapp, Company D, Third Artillery; by direction of the President, Private Ernst Koebig, Company E, Seventeenth Infantry.

The leave of absence granted Major H. M. Robert, Corps of Engineers, in Special Orders No. 151, c. a., from headquarters Corps of Engineers, is extended eight days.

The leave of absence on surgeon's certificate of disability granted Captain A. E. Hooker, Ninth Cavalry, in Special Orders No. 89, April 30, 1873, from this office, is extended six months on surgeon's certificate of disability.

The extension of leave of absence granted First Lieutenant E. W. Stone, Twenty-first Infantry, in Special Orders No. 187, November 3, 1873, from headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, is further extended four months.

[No Special Orders were issued from the Adjutant-General's Office, on Wednesday and Friday, December 17 and 19, 1873.]

Thursday, December 18.

Hospital Steward George A. Christian, U. S. Army, now on duty in the Surgeon-General's Office, will be discharged the service of the United States, to take effect December 16, 1873.

Leave of absence for three months is granted Surgeon Eliasha J. Baily.

The leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant Daniel C. Pearson, Second Cavalry, in Special Orders No. 41, August 26, 1873, from headquarters of the Army, is extended two months.

The extension of leave of absence granted Post Chaplain Gamaliel Collins, in Special Orders No. 102, November 15, 1873, from headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, is further extended thirty days.

Discharged.—Private Albert T. Meade, General Service U. S. Army; Recruit Peter M. Kelly, General Service U. S. Army; Second Class Private Thomas Davis, Ordnance Detachment, U. S. Army.

Major V. C. Hanna, paymaster, is relieved from duty in the Military Division of the Atlantic, and will repair to Chicago and report by letter to the commanding general Department of the Missouri, for duty, in place of Major R. A. Kinzie, paymaster, deceased, as directed in telegram of the 15th inst., from this office.

Captain E. C. Bowen, Eleventh Infantry, will report in person to the superintendent General Recruiting Service, at New York city, to accompany a detachment of recruits to his regiment, as directed in telegram of the 13th instant, from this office. On completion of this duty Captain Bowen will join his proper station.

First Lieutenant Summer H. Lincoln, Tenth Infantry, is detailed as a member of the General Court-martial appointed by par. 1, Special Orders No. 238, November 29, 1873, from this office, to meet at Newport Barracks, Kentucky, to serve during the trial of Private John Coffey, Sixth Cavalry.

Saturday, December 20.

The leave of absence granted Captain William M. Waterbury, Thirteenth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 155, October 8, 1873, from Headquarters Department of the Platte, is extended five months.

Leave of absence until March 31, 1874, is granted Post Chaplain C. W. Fitch, U. S. Army, on surgeon's certificate of disability.

Discharged.—Unattached Recruit Matthew Carroll, Seventeenth Infantry. Sergeant George Boehmner, General Service U. S. Army. By direction of the President, Private James Ritchie, General Service U. S. Army. Private Albert B. Knight, General Service U. S. Army. Second Class Private Edward H. Clough, Ordnance Detachment U. S. Army. Recruit Joseph McCollough, General Mounted Service U. S. Army.

Special orders No. 235, paragraph 8, November 24, 1873, from this office, directing that Private Henry Gaynor, Company L, Eighth Cavalry, be transferred to the General Mounted Service U. S. Army, at St. Louis, Missouri, is revoked.

The leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant J. H. Smallwood, Ninth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 159, October 14, 1873, from Headquarters Department of the Platte, is extended until December 18, 1873.

The resignations of the following named officers have been accepted by the President, to take effect on the dates set opposite their respective names: Captain Philip A. Owen, Ninth Infantry, December 31, 1873. First Lieutenant Alvan S. Galbreath, Second Infantry, December 18, 1873. Second Lieutenant J. H. Smallwood, Ninth Infantry, December 18, 1873.

The Superintendent Mounted Recruiting Service will cause 150 recruits to be prepared and forwarded under proper charge to Omaha, Nebraska, where they will be reported upon arrival to the Commanding General Department of the Platte, for assignment to the Third Cavalry.

Transferred.—Private Henry Stout, Company F, Fifth Cavalry, to Company D, Sixteenth Infantry. Private William G. Foster, Company G, First Artillery,

to the General Service, U. S. Army, to date December 9, 1873.

S. O. No. 245, paragraph 15, December 10, 1873, from this office, directing that Private Owen O'Neill, Company K, Tenth Infantry, be restored to duty without trial and transferred to the General Service U. S. Army, is revoked.

S. O. No. 244, paragraph 13, December 8, 1873, from this office, directing that Private Benton Wallace, Company F, Fifteenth Infantry, be restored to duty without trial and transferred to the General Service U. S. Army, is revoked.

Monday, December 22.

Discharged.—Sergeant Francis Sasse, Ordnance Detachment, U. S. Army. Second Class Private George W. Welton, Ordnance Detachment, U. S. Army.

Superintendent Patrick O'Neill (recently appointed) will proceed to and assume charge of the National Cemetery at Staunton, Virginia.

Casualties among the Commissioned Officers of the U. S. Army reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, Dec. 13, 1873.

Major Robert A. Kinzie, paymaster—Died December 13, 1873, at Chicago, Ill.

First Lieutenant William L. Foulk, Tenth Cavalry—Dismissed December 6, 1873.

CHANGES OF STATIONS.

The following is a list of the changes of stations of troops reported at the War Department since last report:

Company C, Tenth Cavalry, from Fort Griffin, Tex., to Fort Sill I. T.

Company G, Tenth Cavalry, from Fort Sill, I. T., to Fort Griffin, Tex.

Company F, Fifteenth Infantry, from Fort Selden, N. M., to Fort Craig, N. M.

Company H, Fifteenth Infantry, from Fort Craig, N. M., to Fort Selden, N. M.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

Lieutenant-Gen. P. H. Sheridan : Hdq'trs Chicago, Ill.

DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA.

Brigadier-General Alfred H. Terry : Headquarters, St. Paul, Minn.

Seventh Cavalry.—First Lieutenant James Calhoun December 10 was assigned to temporary detached duty until further orders, with the battalion of his regiment serving at Fort Abraham Lincoln, D. T., to date from September 21, 1873. Captain T. H. French at the same time was assigned to temporary duty at Fort Abercrombie, D. T., to date from the 4th instant, until such time as the state of the weather will permit of his proceeding to his proper station (Fort Rice, D. T.), with safety.

Fort Snelling.—In execution of instructions from the General of the Army, the commanding officer of Fort Snelling December 12 was ordered to designate a company of his command, for temporary detached duty at Sparta, Wis.

Seventeenth Infantry.—It being impracticable to obtain the attendance at the present time of important witnesses for the prosecution, and experience having already demonstrated the great danger of loss of life in crossing during the winter months the region of country lying between the settlements of eastern Dakota and the posts on the Upper Missouri, the date for convening the General Court-martial ordered for the trial of Captain F. E. Grossmann, Seventeenth Infantry, has been postponed until the 1st of May, 1874.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

Brigadier-General John Pope : Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth.

Fifth Infantry.—Second Lieutenant J. H. Whitten December 13 was ordered from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Larned, Kansas, for temporary duty with Company C.

Leave of absence for thirty days was granted First Lieutenant Edmund Rice, to date from 4th instant.

Leave of absence for fourteen days December 17 was granted Second Lieutenant C. E. Hargous.

Sixth Cavalry.—Leave of absence for thirty days was December 15 granted First Lieutenant C. H. Campbell.

Medical Department.—Leave of absence for thirty days, with permission to apply to the Adjutant-General of the Army, through headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, for an extension of three months, December 16 was granted A. A. Surgeon H. S. Turrill, U. S. Army, to take effect at such time as his services can best be spared.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE.

Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord : Headquarters, Omaha, Nebraska.

Eighth Infantry.—Captain C. M. Bailey, Eighth Infantry, with First Lieutenant George O. Webster, Fourth Infantry, in command of a detachment of one hundred recruits, Eighth Infantry, December 13 was ordered to conduct the same to Fort D. A. Russell, for assignment to companies. Captain Bailey was ordered to await at Fort D. A. Russell the assignment, by the regimental commander, of the recruits to companies, and conduct such as may be assigned to companies at Beaver, to that station.

Second Cavalry.—The Quartermaster's Department December 16 was directed to furnish transportation for two commissioned officers—to be detailed by the commanding officer of Omaha Barracks—and a detachment of one hundred and five recruits, Second Cavalry, from Omaha to Fort Sanders.

Sidney Barracks.—A General Court-martial December

17 was appointed to meet at Sidney Barracks, Neb., December 23. Detail for the court: Lieutenant-Colonel George A. Woodward, Fourteenth Infantry; Assistant Surgeon Albert Hartuff, U. S. Army; Captain George W. Davis, First Lieutenants Samuel McConaughy, Fourteenth Infantry; Joseph Lawson, Third Cavalry; Second Lieutenant Charles Morton, Third Cavalry, judge-advocate.

Fort Steele.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Fred Steele, W. T., December 23. Lieutenant-Colonel Luther P. Bradley, Ninth Infantry, First Lieutenant Martin E. O'Brien, Second Cavalry, and the following officers of the Thirteenth Infantry were detailed for the court: Captains Emory W. Clift, Arthur MacArthur, Jr.; Second Lieutenants Frank Baker, William Abbot, Edmond L. Fletcher, First Lieutenant John S. Bishop, judge-advocate.

Ninth Infantry.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Omaha Barracks, Neb., December 31, for the trial of Second Lieutenant Hayden DeLaney. Detail for the court: Colonel F. F. Flint, Fourth Infantry; Lieutenant-Colonel Luther P. Bradley, Ninth Infantry; Captains Anson Mills, Third Cavalry; George W. Davis, Fourteenth Infantry; Edward J. Spaulding, Second Cavalry; Assistant Surgeon Charles L. Heitzmann, U. S. Army; Second Lieutenant Stanhope E. Blunt, Thirteenth Infantry; Major H. B. Burnham, judge-advocate U. S. Army, judge-advocate.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

Brigadier-General C. C. Augur: Headquarters, San Antonio, Texas.
Fort Sill, I. T.—From this post a correspondent writes, December 9, 1873: "Indian matters in *situs quo*. The five Comanches demanded as hostages for Santanta and Big Tree, and for the good behavior of the Kiowas, have not been delivered up. 'Always catching before hanging,' and they haven't been caught yet. I presume the Kiowas are laughing in their sleeves (or would if they had any sleeves) at our complete discomfiture. Of course Santanta and Big Tree will at once deliver themselves up to be returned to the Texas State prison, upon the Comanches failing to produce the required hostages; but some folks are so obtuse as not to see it."

Medical Department.—Assistant Surgeon W. H. Fowles, U. S. Army, December 8 was summoned as a witness before the G. C. M. in session at San Antonio.

Tenth Infantry.—Leave of absence for thirty days December 9 was granted Captain E. E. Sellers.

The seven days leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant J. R. Cranston, from headquarters Fort Clark, Texas, December 6 was extended two days.

Ninth Cavalry.—Second Lieutenant C. A. Stedman December 6 was relieved from duty as judge-advocate of the G. C. M. ordered in S. O. No. 217, c. a., from department headquarters, and First Lieutenant Patrick Cusack, detailed in his stead.

Fort Griffin.—Assistant Surgeon D. G. Caldwell, U. S. Army, December 6 was ordered to Fort Griffin, via Dallas, Texas.

Twenty-fifth Infantry.—Second Lieutenant H. H. Landon December 6 was detailed as a member of the G. C. M. in place of Second Lieutenant Harris A. Wheeler, relieved.

Eleventh Infantry.—Leave of absence for thirty days, with permission to apply for an extension of sixty days, December 10 was granted Captain G. K. Sanderson.

Tenth Cavalry.—Leave of absence for thirty days was granted Captain S. T. Norwell, December 10.

Before a General Court-martial convened at Fort Sill, I. T., November 20, of which Colonel William H. Wood, Eleventh Infantry, is president, and Captain G. K. Sanderson, Eleventh Infantry, judge-advocate, First Lieutenant Charles E. Nordstrom, Tenth Cavalry, was arraigned and tried, and acquitted on the charges I.—"Disobedience of orders." II.—"Neglect of duty, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." III.—"Failing to repair to Sunday morning inspection, in violation of the 44th Article of War." The action of the court in sustaining the plea of the accused, in bar of trial, to the specification to the first charge, that he had already been punished and pardoned for the offence alleged, is disapproved by Brigadier-General Augur, the department commander, who says: "It is not shown that the accused was punished; and, had such been the case, the plea would not have been valid unless the punishment were the result of a previous trial. The evidence adduced by the accused, in support of his plea in bar, would have been more appropriately offered in defence. There was also some testimony offered on defence wholly foreign to the true issue, which, the reviewing authority regrets to see, the court admitted. Again, it is a matter of surprise that the officer preferring the charges was not called up as a witness, when testimony was taken as to the plea in bar, and on the trial, when the testimony deemed irrelevant was elicited. The court finds the accused 'not guilty' of the charges on which he was tried, which is an actual acquittal, but it would have been more in accordance with the customs of the service, and good practice, to have added the words 'and does therefore acquit him.' With the above exceptions, the proceedings and findings are approved. Lieutenant Nordstrom will be released from arrest and resume his sword."

Sixth Cavalry.—Leave of absence for ten days December 10 was granted Second Lieutenant J. B. Kerr, to take effect at such time as (in the opinion of the post commander) his services can be spared.

Release from Court-martial Duty.—General Augur, the department commander, in commenting on the proceeding of a General Court-martial held at Fort Concho, Texas, says: The General Commanding strongly disapproves of members of courts-martial getting relieved from courts on objections urged by themselves. Every commissioned officer of the Army ought to be able to administer justice under the solemn and binding obligations of the oath prescribed by law. It is true that a merciful and wise dispensation of the law, based both on statute and custom, authorizes those undergoing trial to challenge members, and courts to allow the same, provided certain conditions be fulfilled; but which condi-

tions, while they may imply, do not necessarily prove, that the challenged party cannot fairly try the case. If a member of a court-martial is cognizant of certain circumstances which render it seemingly unadvisable for him to sit thereon, the proper course for him would be to mention those circumstances to the accused or some one representing him—the judge-advocate, in default of counsel—and to let objection come from the defense, the court deciding the validity thereof. Should there be no objections to a member except his own doubts of being biased in the case, the oath to be taken should obviate that difficulty. That oath was made to enable and compel members of a court to divest themselves of prejudice. It is not a mere idle form. Subject to the foregoing remarks, the proceedings, findings, and sentence are approved, and the sentence will be duly executed.

The War Department is in receipt of a report from Lieutenant-Colonel Merritt, of the Ninth Cavalry, commanding Fort Concho, Texas, stating that the body of the man killed by Indians near the El Paso road, on the 22d of November, was recognized as that of J. F. Miller, of Arizona. Colonel Merritt mentions that the camp of Captain Kennedy was fired into by Indians a short time ago, and that a few minutes later the stage was fired into by the same party. He says there is a doubt whether the attack just mentioned was by Indians or by Texas cowboys. A short time since he was visiting a camp of the Ninth Cavalry, stationed at the point where Captain Kennedy now is, when a lot of drunken Texans, about twelve o'clock at night, rode along the valley below the camp at full speed, yelling and firing their arms. It is a way they have, when under the influence of liquor, of amusing themselves. It is possible they may have been repeating the pastime, though the firing at the stage would seem to indicate Indians, as Captain Kennedy reports.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

Major-General W. S. Hancock: Hdqrs, New York.

Officers Registered.—The following officers were registered at the headquarters Military Division of the Atlantic, for the week ending December 23: Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Elliott, First Cavalry; First Lieutenant Thomas Wilhelm, Eighth Infantry; Colonel R. S. Mackenzie, Fourth Cavalry; First Lieutenant John Whitney, Eleventh Infantry; Captains Edward Ball, Second Cavalry; A. J. McGinnis, quartermaster, U. S. Army; Lieutenant Henry Metcalf, Major Thomas J. Treadwell, Ordnance Department; Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas C. Devine, Eighth Cavalry; George L. Hartshorn, major-general, U. S. Army; First Lieutenant Robert M. Rogers, Second Artillery; Second Lieutenant Charles E. Hargous, Fifth Infantry.

Second Artillery.—Leave of absence for thirty days December 18 was granted Captain William P. Graves.

Third Artillery.—Leave of absence for ten days was granted Second Lieutenant Charles W. Hobbs, December 22.

Leave of absence for twelve days December 20 was granted First Lieutenant George F. Barstow, Third Artillery.

Leave of absence for twenty days December 20 was granted Captain Abram C. Wildrick.

Fourth Artillery.—Leave of absence for twelve days December 20 was granted First Lieutenant Charles F. Humphrey.

The Mackinac Reservation.—During the last session, Senator Ferry, of Michigan, introduced a resolution instructing the Secretary of War to consider the expediency of dedicating to the public use, as a park, the Island of Mackinac, Mich., now held by the United States as a military reservation. This resolution was referred by the Secretary of War to the Engineering Bureau, the officers of which have reported in favor of the project, saying that, in time of peace, they can conceive of no combination of circumstances that would require a garrison of more than two companies at the post. Therefore, there can be no objection to such dedication. Gen. Philip St. George Cooke thinks it a good project. The salubrity of the climate of the reservation and the beauty of its scenery, they say, make a summer residence at Mackinac desirable.

Garrison and Regimental Courts-martial.—Major-General Hancock, in division General Orders, says: The records of garrison and regimental courts-martial examined at these headquarters indicate the existence, to a considerable extent, of an impression that, when certain language used by enlisted men constitutes the substance of the offenses with which they are charged, it is always necessary that such language should be set forth *verbatim* in the specifications to the charges. For the sake of certainty this is, as a general rule, desirable, but it is not in all cases indispensably requisite to a military charge.

Instances occur of the use of such foul and immoral language, that its repetition in orders to the troops can have none other than a baneful influence. In such cases it is believed to be to the best interests of the service that the specification should simply state the character of the language used, provided always it be done in such terms as will sustain the charge, and distinguish the particular offence. It will then be for the court to determine whether the words proved to have been used are of the character alleged in the specification. The customs of the service sanction this form of averment. The Major-General commanding exercises the necessary control over the charges which are forwarded to these headquarters for trial by General Court-martial, but he has no supervision before trial over those which are brought before military courts of inferior jurisdiction. With reference to the latter he commands the principle here laid down to the attention of the officers whose duty it is to decide upon the propriety of the form of expression.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC.

Major-General J. M. Schofield: Hdqrs, San Francisco, Cal.

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.

Benicia Barracks.—A. A. Surgeon D. Walker, U. S.

Army, December 9 was directed to return to Benicia Barracks, Cal., and resume his duties at that post.

Twelfth Infantry.—The commanding officer of Angel Island, Cal., December 11 was directed to forward the enlisted men awaiting transportation at that post belonging to Companies C, D, E, and K.

Fourth Artillery.—Second Lieutenant Joseph Garrard, at Alcatraz Island, Cal., December 11 was relieved from temporary duty with Company L, and ordered to Presidio, Cal., for duty with his company (M, Fourth Artillery).

DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA.

Colonel Jeff. C. Davis: Headquarters, Portland, Oregon.

Twenty-first Infantry.—Orders which related to Second Lieutenant Harry De W. Moore were revoked December 1, and the commanding officer of Fort Vancouver ordered to forward the detachment of recruits in charge of a commissioned officer. Second Lieutenant Joseph W. Duncan was ordered to accompany the detachment to Fort Walla Walla.

First Lieutenant Stephen P. Jocelyn, Twenty-first Infantry, November 28 was relieved from duty at Fort Klamath and ordered to Camp Warner, Oregon.

First Cavalry.—On the arrival at Fort Walla of the detachment of recruits for the First Cavalry, the commanding officer was directed to prepare the detachments for Companies E (Fort Lapwai), and H and K (Camp Harney), and forward them to their posts in charge of commissioned officer.

Payment of Troops.—Major and Paymaster William A. Rucker, A. C. P., November 28 was directed to pay the troops to include the muster of October 31, 1873, at Fort Vancouver and Vancouver Arsenal. Major and Paymaster Virgil S. Eggleston at the same time was ordered to pay the troops to include the muster of October 31, 1873, at Forts Cape Disappointment and Stevens.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.

Brigadier-General George Crook: Headquarters, Prescott, A. T.

In General Orders No. 41, headquarters Department of Arizona, Prescott, December 3, 1873, the department commander communicates to his command a telegram received from Major-General John M. Schofield, commanding the Military Division of the Pacific, dated San Francisco, November 19, 1873, in which he says: "The Commanding General congratulates you upon the completion of the military telegraph line from San Diego to Prescott, and desires you to thank those employed in its construction for the energy and expedition with which the work has been carried on." The department commander, in adding his thanks to this grateful recognition of services, extended by the distinguished commander of the division, desires also to improve the opportunity of expressing his sincere appreciation of the important services performed by the detachments of troops engaged in the construction of new routes of communication and other public improvements throughout the department.

Congratulation to General Crook.—The Arizona Citizen, of November 30, says: The ball given on Monday evening at Congress Hall, in honor of General Crook, in connection with his recent appointment to be brigadier-general, was regarded by all reliable observers as the best in every respect of any of the many grand ones which have from time to time come off in Tucson. The attendance was general, the music the best, the splendid Fifth Cavalry orchestra have, the supper tip-top, and all enjoyed themselves very well indeed. The Fifth Cavalry band gave General Crook a splendid serenade at the Governor's residence on Saturday evening. While at Tucson, citizens generally called upon General Crook and extended their congratulations on the work he has accomplished in Arizona in the interests of genuine peace, and also upon the recent elevation to a full brigadiership.

Camp Lowell.—Leave of absence for thirty days, with permission to apply to the A. A. G., Military Division of the Pacific, for an extension of sixty days, and to the Adjutant-General of the Army for a further extension of four months, was December 9 granted to Captain John V. Furey, A. Q. M., U. S. Army, advantage to be taken of this leave upon the completion of the quartermaster storehouses now being erected under supervision of Captain Furey at Camp Lowell, A. T., and the removal thereto of all stores now at Tucson and the discontinuance of the depot at that place.

Twelfth Infantry.—In compliance with instructions from headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, Company B was December 3 assigned to duty at Fort Yuma, Cal.

Fifth Cavalry.—The commanding officer, Company I, Fifth Cavalry, was December 3 ordered to proceed without delay with his company to San Carlos, A. T., and relieve the troops now on duty at that camp, reporting upon arrival by letter to the commanding officer, Camp Apache, A. T.

First Lieutenant Bernard Reilly on November 30 was ordered to San Carlos, A. T., for duty with his company.

Twenty-third Infantry.—First Lieutenant William F. Rice, R. Q. M., was December 3 relieved from duty at Camp Grant, A. T., and ordered to report by letter to the commanding officer, Camp Apache, A. T., for instructions.

Inspection.—General Crook returned to headquarters from his tour of inspection, November 29.

Quartermaster's Department.—General J. J. Dana, quartermaster, U. S. Army, late chief quartermaster of the department, left Prescott, December 2, en route for Washington, D. C., in obedience to orders from the War Department.

Prescott.—Surgeon D. L. Magruder, U. S. Army, arrived at Prescott, December 2, and assumed the duties of medical director of the department the following day. Major J. H. Nelson, paymaster, Mr. Nelson, and Lieutenant O. L. Wistling, Twenty-third Infantry, arrived there from Tucson, December 3.

ARMY AND NAVY IN CONGRESS.

LAST Saturday closed the proceedings of Congress until the 5th of January, when the holidays are over. Notwithstanding the discussion of the salary bills, which occupied the special attention of Congress, particularly the House of Representatives, there has been time to introduce any number of bills—upwards of eight hundred already.

The chief naval matter which has been discussed was the bill to appropriate four millions of dollars to meet extraordinary expenses in the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874—in other words, to supply deficiencies caused by the unusual and unexpected expenditure in fitting out vessels in anticipation of difficulties with Spain. This bill passed the House, and was amended in the Senate by striking out that part which allowed transfers to be made from one bureau to another, and as amended passed the Senate by a vote of 46 ayes to 7 nays. The House agreed to the Senate amendment on the 18th inst. It appropriates for pay of the Navy \$300,000; contingencies Navy Department, \$25,000; navigation, \$20,000; ordnance, \$500,000; equipment, \$500,000; yards and docks, \$20,000; provisions and clothing, \$300,000; steam engineering, \$355,000; construction and repair, \$2,000,000.

The next measure in importance was the bill to increase the Navy temporarily to 10,000 men, which passed the House and is now before the Senate, where it is meeting with considerable opposition.

Among the other bills introduced are H. R. No. 67, providing for an outfit and yearly allowance of clothing to enlisted men and boys in the Navy; H. R. No. 77, regulating the pay of laborers, artisans, and mechanics in the Norfolk Navy-yard, making it the same as for corresponding classes in the Philadelphia Navy-yard; H. R. to remove the powder magazine from Fort Norfolk; Senate No. 170, for the relief of certain officers of the Navy who were dropped, furloughed, or retired under the act of February 28, 1855; H. R. No. 508, to secure the proper disposition of the proceeds of certain cotton picked up at sea by vessels of the Navy; H. R. No. 802, to increase the facilities for docking and repairing at the Washington Navy-yard; H. R. No. 558, to regulate promotions to the grade of admiral U. S. N.; H. R. No. 590, relative to the rank and status of certain officers of the U. S. N.; H. R. No. 689, authorizing corrections to be made of errors in prize lists; H. R. No. 780, for the relief of the officers and crew of the U. S. steamer *Wyoming*; H. R. No. 788, to establish the rank and pay of certain retired officers of the U. S. Navy; H. R. No. 535, to amend an act entitled "an act revising, consolidating, and amending the Army and Navy pensions laws," approved March 3, 1873; Senate No. 176, to promote the establishment of public marine schools; H. R. No. 732, to provide for reclaiming and improving swamp and overflowed lands connected with the New York Navy-yard; H. R. No. 703, for the repair of the marine dry dock and the construction of marine railways at the Pensacola yard, and H. R. No. 81, for the construction of an iron-plating shop in the Navy-yard, Norfolk.

These bills were read a second time by their respective titles, and generally referred to appropriate committees.

Among the private bills are H. R. No. 76, for the relief of Captain George H. Cooper; H. R. No. 77, to appoint Acting Master Robert Platt a master in the Navy; Senate No. 65, to restore Captain G. H. Preble to his original position, and promote him to commodore on the active list; Senate to restore Commander R. F. R. Lewis to his original position on the Register; H. R. No. 540, to restore Captain L. C. Sartori to his original position on the Navy Register; H. R. No. 704, for the relief of Commodore Edward Middleton, advancing him to his proper grade on the retired list; to grant pensions to the widow of Chaplain Rodman Lewis, to the widow of Professor James Ferguson, and to restore pension to the widow of Commodore Elliott; H. R. No. 52, to grant an annuity to Mary Swift, daughter of Commodore Truxton.

Fred. Francis Baury has petitioned to be commissioned a lieutenant on the retired list in consequence of wounds received in the line of duty; and Captain W. W. Low, to be allowed and paid the difference between the pay of a master in the line of promotion and that of a lieutenant from September 14, 1855, to January 16, 1858.

Mr. Hoar introduced a resolution, which was adopted, that the Secretary of the Navy be requested to communicate to the House all the facts in his possession tending to show the claims, legal or equitable, the owners, officers, or crew of the *Tigress*, or any other person may have on the United States for assistance rendered to the officers and crew of the *Polaris*.

On the day of adjournment over until after the holidays, the following matters of naval interest were presented:

In the Senate, a petition of C. K. Curtis and others, praying to be restored to their proper rank in the Navy; a petition of a number of persons, graduates of the Naval Academy, praying to be restored to their legal rank in the service, of which they allege they have been deprived, both of which petitions were referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. Cragin presented Bill 239, authorizing corrections to be made in prize lists.

In the House Mr. Myers, by unanimous consent, was placed on the Naval Committee, by an exchange with Mr. Packard. Mr. Cain introduced a bill (No. 841), to establish a Navy-yard at Port Royal, S. C. A resolution offered by Mr. Randall was adopted, "that the Secretary of the Navy be requested to review the findings of the Court-martial in relation to Henry Hoover, late Naval Constructor of the U. S. Navy, and the action of the Department thereon, and to take such action in reference to said Hoover as the justice of the case and the provisions of existing law may require."

Mr. Schumaker offered a resolution for adoption, calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for a statement of the amount of money now in the Treasury known as the "New Orleans Prize Money"—how much had been paid

out or distributed, how much remains to be distributed, and if any had been paid out as salaries or fees; but Mr. Butler objected, saying "he could tell anybody all about it better than anybody in the Treasury could." By consent the resolution was referred to the Naval Committee.

In matters pertaining to the Army the following bills have been introduced:

H. R. No. 272. Relating to new appointments and promotions in certain departments of the Army.

H. R. No. 346. To amend section 6 of an act approved March 3, 1869, "making appropriations for the support of the Army and for other purposes," and to provide for appointments and promotions in the Ordnance Department. The amendment is that the section shall not include appointments and promotions in the Ordnance Department, and that appointments and promotions in said department may be made as though the said act had not been passed.

H. R. No. 338. To repeal section 6 of an act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the year ending 30th June, 1870.

H. R. 583. Providing for promotions in the Ordnance Department of the Army.

H. R. 730. Authorizing the President to reappoint retired and disabled Army officers.

Senate No. 184. Relating to certain brevet appointments.

Among the relief or private bills are H. R. No. 70, to grant a pension to the widow of Major-General Meade; H. R. No. 645, to grant a pension to the widow of Major-General Canby.

H. R. No. 445. For the relief and reappointment of Captain Henry Inman, assistant quartermaster U. S. Army.

H. R. No. 453. For the relief of First Lieutenant Peter A. Lantz.

H. R. No. 114. To restore William McElroy to his grade as first lieutenant.

F. O. Wyse, late lieutenant-colonel Fourth Regiment U. S. Artillery, prays the restoration of certain rights denied him in 1863.

A resolution was adopted in the Senate, "That the Committee on Pensions be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the existing pension laws as to provide that the allowance or monthly pension granted to soldiers who have lost an arm above the elbow shall be the same as that now allowed to soldiers who have lost a leg above the knee, and report by bill or otherwise."

A bill was introduced by Senator Ames (No. 220) to authorize the appointment of a major of artillery in the Army of the United States, which was read twice, and with a petition of Captain and Brevet Brigadier-General James A. Robertson, referred to Committee on Military Affairs.

A resolution was adopted in the House on the 18th inst., "That the Committee on Printing be requested to inquire into and report the cost and practicability of printing 10,000 copies of the Medical History of the late War," and the Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting a draft of a joint resolution authorizing the issue of clothing to certain enlisted men of the Army, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Coburn, on the 19th inst., introduced a bill, No. 848, authorizing the promulgation of the General Regulations for the Army. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

A bill (No. 214) was introduced in the House on the 4th inst., by Mr. Butler, repealing so much of the sixth section of the act making appropriations for the Army for the year ending June 30, 1874, as prohibits promotions and new appointments in the Ordnance Department, provided that the grade of second lieutenant of ordnance be abolished.

The case of General Howard was before the House on the 19th inst., the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom the letter of charges from the Secretary of War was referred, having reported the following resolution, and recommended its adoption:

"Resolved, That the President of the United States be, and is hereby requested to convene a court of inquiry, to consist of not less than five officers of the Army, whose duty it shall be, when so convened, to fully investigate all the charges against Brig.-General O. O. Howard, contained in the communication of the Secretary of War to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of date Dec. 5, 1873, and to report their opinion thereon to the Secretary of War."

Some discussion took place as to the number, grade, and character of the officers to compose the court, Mr. Maynard suggesting that the grade should be indicated, and Mr. Coburn replying that the President would be governed in that respect by the Army Regulations. Mr. Butler, of Mass., suggested that at least one half of the court should be officers who had served with colored troops, as when he himself took command of such troops he found great prejudice existing against their officers among officers of the Regular Army. When complaints were made against officers of colored troops he ordered that the court should comprise a majority of officers serving with those troops, in consequence of which complaints ceased. He thought the prejudice still existed, and he had heard it expressed by one or two officers against General Howard, because they did not consider it congenial with the dignity of an Army officer to be at the head of the Bureau of Freedmen's Affairs. Mr. Coburn replied that the President had the discretion of selecting officers free from such prejudices, and he saw no danger in trusting the investigation to officers of high rank selected by him.

Mr. Kasson thought the resolution should cover the cases of other officers named in the letter of the Secretary of War, who appeared to be implicated, which Mr. Coburn said would be an impossibility, as it could not be told in advance who might be implicated, and it was always sufficient to try a man upon the charges preferred against him.

After some further remarks by Mr. Butler as to the

constitution of the court, by consent of Mr. Coburn he offered an amendment that "the court shall be composed in part of three general officers who served in command of colored troops." Mr. Coburn would not accept the amendment, and asked the recommitment of the matter to the Committee on Military Affairs. With the amendment pending, there being no objection, the matter was recommitted.

In the course of the debate Mr. Coburn caused to be read to the House a communication addressed to him on the 17th inst. by General Howard, in which the latter stated that he courted "the fullest possible examination into all the subjects" named in the letter of the Secretary of War; that never having been "adverse to a trial by any proper tribunal, civil or military, upon charges with any shadow of foundation," he deprecated the statement of his accuser that a General Court-martial became barred in part under statute of limitation, and if it be legally possible to do so, he "wished to waive all rights and privileges accorded him under such statute, to the end that the 'public benefit' may receive no detriment;" that in considering the alleged irregularities and violations of law in the conduct of the Freedmen's Bureau he felt confident of his ability clearly to prove that, acting as Commissioner in an administrative capacity, he is "neither morally nor legally responsible for either of the several counts set forth in the Secretary's letter," and therefore not personally or officially accountable for any portion of the sums which make up the aggregate therein charged, and that it is against the usage of every department of government to hold him "peculiarly accountable for the defalcation of subordinate officers where no collusion whatever is claimed."

He says he will gladly submit to the examination and judgment of the committee the work, or any portion of it necessary, of the late Freedmen's Bureau, the manner of its performance, and his own official and personal record connected with it, with a view to a final and complete settlement of the questions at issue, which have been so annoying to his friends and such a prolific source of public scandal.

THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movement of officers or vessels.

VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

The Terror, Captain George H. Cooper, was put in commission at Philadelphia on the 19th inst.

ORDERS were issued to all the Navy-yards, on the 18th inst. directing the suspension of all extra work and the resumption of the usual hours of labor.

ORDERS were received from Washington, December 19, to cease all extra work at the Charlestown Navy-yard, and to resume the usual working hours. The work of fitting out the *Brooklyn* will proceed, but, as the emergency is over, a number of employees have been discharged.

DESPATCHES from Rio Janeiro, November 25, 1873, report the *Wasp*, Commander Mahan, at Montevideo on the 10th inst. The *Lancaster*, flagship of Rear-Admiral Strong, and the *Ticonderoga*, Captain Badger, were at Rio on the above date. The *Ticonderoga* sailed for the United States on Saturday, the 29th of November.

THE President of the Rio Ferry Company addressed a very handsome letter to Rear-Admiral Wm. Rogers Taylor, thanking him and the officers and men of his command for timely assistance to one of their ferry boats which had collided with the French frigate *Venus* on the 27th of October last. The promptness with which the steam launch of the *Lancaster* repaired to the scene of the accident is particularly commended.

THE officers of the *Minnesota*, at the Brooklyn Navy-yard, were detached on Dec. 23. The ship will not go into commission, nor be put in ordinary. She will be kept ready in case of need. The repairing needed on the *Minnesota*, *Tennessee*, and *Florida* will be finished, and the two latter, like the first, will not be put in commission, but kept in readiness. The *Roanoke* and *Dictator* will shortly be ready and put in commission. It is probable there will be a large discharge of workmen on the last of this month.

THE action of the commander of Her Majesty's ship *Niobe* in bombarding the fortifications of Onos, and thereby procuring the release of a number of British and American citizens who had been imprisoned and their property destroyed by the natives, has naturally enough not been approved by the people who had been guilty of an outrage upon the American and British flags, and they have sent some kind of remonstrance, it is said, to England. But merchants settled in Central America think otherwise, and a number of them have forwarded and published an address to Captain Loraine, in which they say: "We feel certain that the course you have seen fit to assume will have the most lasting and beneficial effect in our trade and intercourse with all Central America in the future, and therefore we again repeat to yourself and to your subordinates the thanks you so justly merit at our hands."

THE *Colorado*, arrived off the port of Key West, Fla., December 20, eight and a half days from New York. All well on board. The evening and night of the second day out the *Colorado* encountered a severe southwester, which thoroughly tested her seaworthiness. On the morning of December 20, at 7:30, off Hillsborough light, she met the *Ossipee* with the *Virginia* in tow, the latter having no steam on. Soon after passing the *Ossipee* with her prize, the *Pawtucket*, with the monitor *Manhattan* in tow, came in sight behind the *Colorado*, and anchored before her. The *Pawtucket*, it was thought, would commence her return trip northward on

December 22. The vessels at Key West, Fla., on December 21, were the *Worcester*, the *Wyoming*, the *Colorado*, the *Poughatian*, the *Passaic*, and the *Dispatch*, the iron-clad *Saugus*, *Mahopac*, and *Manhattan*. The *Canandaigua* was expected hourly.

The *Franklin* was put in commission at Boston on the 15th inst., and turned over to Captain Edward Simpson. The usual inspection as to the fitting and equipments of the vessel was made by Commodore Guest and Commanders Jouett and Lewis the following day. The *Franklin* carries a battery of 39 guns—34 15-inch, 1 11-inch, and 4 200-pounder Parrott; a complement of 464 men, 28 officers, and 28 marines. Altogether she is a ship of which the United States may well be proud. The Boston *Globe* says: The crew do not seem very well pleased with the vessel or her officers, as they are deserting in large numbers. The deters steal the suits of the mechanics and pass out as workmen, easily eluding the vigilance of the officers, as they are unacquainted with the faces of the majority of the men. The fact that so many seem desirous of making an unceremonious exit may be traced to the restless and unsettled disposition of the new recruits, most of them being young fellows who have rushed hastily into the service from lack of employment, or something worse.

In its issue for November 15 *Broad Arrow* says: "If English ministers cannot be induced, for various reasons, to exercise any sort of higher and more enlarged jurisdiction over some of the islands in the South Pacific, the United States Government has no such qualms. The other day the *Saranac* was ordered to Honolulu, in anticipation of the death of the King of Hawaii, in order to protect American citizens, property and interests. We have no complaint to make about it, but it is only one of many signs indicating the current of events and feelings. A fortnight ago it was determined by President Grant's Cabinet, on the recommendation of Rear-Admiral Almy, to strengthen the American squadron in the Pacific. For this purpose the U. S. steamship *Monongahela*, recently commissioned, and then at the torpedo-station, Newport, Rhode Island, was ordered to the South Pacific, and has already sailed for that station, to report itself to the commander, Rear-Admiral Almy. Such things have a meaning, and whatever they import the eyes of English statesmen ought at any rate to be kept well open."

The *Colorado*, which recently left New York, and the *Minnesota*, now fitting out, were built by an act of Congress in 1854, under an appropriation for six steam frigates. In the first five the machinery was to be merely auxiliary, a guaranteed speed of eight knots per hour only being called for. They all proved excellent sailors, however, the *Colorado* having made several times as high as twelve knots under canvas alone, and during a recent cruise as flagship of the Asiatic Squadron distancing all competitors without the use of steam. The *Roanoke* was somewhat injured in launching, and it was considered best at the commencement of the Rebellion to cut the hull down to about six feet free board, plate the sides and strengthen the deck to receive three turrets, each of which should contain two 15-inch guns, and it cannot be doubted that to-day this vessel has no superior in fighting qualities in any iron-clad in the Spanish navy. Much has been said regarding the Spanish iron-clad *Arapiles*. In an engagement between this vessel and either of the frigates mentioned above, where the same nautical skill was brought to bear on both sides, the result might, and probably would be, with the Spanish frigate; but even this admits of a doubt, when a vessel such as the *Ville du Havre* could be sent to the bottom in a few moments by one so much smaller, and with no finer lines forward than one of our frigates; whereas either the *Dictator* or the *Roanoke* could sink their opponent at will, while the 15-inch shot with 100 or 120 pounds of powder would pierce his sides like pasteboard.

The following statement of the owner of the Cuban filibuster steamer which is now lying in Baltimore, confirms what was stated editorially in the JOURNAL in regard to the character and present condition of the Spanish mosquito fleet off Cuba: "Since March, 1872, I have five times made successful landings of men, arms, and munitions of war, and three times was I chased by gunboats of the Spanish 'mosquito' fleet, but escaped with only slight damage. The Spanish gunboat *Mosquito*, upon firing into us, sprung a leak, her guns being too powerful for her to bear, and foundered at sea. The following night my vessel was chased by the gunboats *Clara* and *Celaya*, but in the darkness they mistook each other, and the *Clara* sank the *Celaya*, her crew only being saved. The *Clara* was also fired into by the *Celaya*, and leaked so badly that she had to go into Santiago. On the 1st, 2d, and 3d of last January the *Edgar Stuart* made three landings of arms, munitions, and men."

NEARLY 300 men are still employed in the various departments at League Island, in completing improvements and preparing for others yet to be made. The monitors now at anchor in the back channel are the *Algonquin*, *Cohoes*, *Koka*, *Minnetonka*, *Modoc*, *Nahant*, *Napa*, the present headquarters of the guard; *Nauaset*, *Niebla*, *Oisego*, and *Suncook*. In front of the island are the *Puritan* and *Faith*, the former having been prepared to send up to the Navy-yard. The walls of the large machine shops are now up, and the roof will soon be in place. The Philadelphia *Ledger* learns from Mr. F. C. Prindle, civil engineer of the United States service, who is devoting his entire time to the work at this place, that the present area of the island proper is 410 acres, but including back channel, and outside of banks to Port Warren's line, there are 922 acres belonging to the Government. It is proposed by the present plan to enlarge the island proper to an area of about 624 acres, and at the same time deepen the back channel into a storage basin of about 240 acres capacity, leaving 60 acres of firm land on the north, between it and Government avenue on the city side. This arrangement will give a water front on the Delaware and Schuylkill of nearly three miles in ex-

tent, and including the back channel, of some five miles additional. For one mile along the Delaware front there will be a depth of twenty-five feet at low water, and all below the Horseshoe Shoals. Broad street is to be continued across the island. The blocks or squares will be laid out 400 feet north and south by 230 feet east and west. The principal workshops and storehouses are each to occupy a whole block, with a quadrangular building of the same exterior dimensions, but having an interior court-yard 100 by 270 feet, for the use of motive power, etc. For the repair and construction of vessels it is proposed to lay rail tracks, to be operated in connection with hollow basin and a floating dock. In addition to the tracks there will be four large stone graving docks, opening with a deep repairing basin of about thirty-nine acres area, and east of Broad street, near this basin, will be located the machinery establishment. To the west of, and connecting also with the river and the shallow basin, will be another deep fitting-out basin of about forty acres, around the sides of which will be located the mast, spar, and boat shops. A deep canal will connect these deep basins with the back channel. Among the improvements already made may be mentioned the landing wharf, at foot of Broad street, 100 feet wide and 300 feet long. A tramway across the island is connected with this wharf. The work of dredging from the back channel, and filling in upon the island, has been continued at intervals, and about twenty acres have been brought to the proper grade. A deep basin of ten acres has been formed in the back channel by the excavation. A portion of the area filled to grade has been fitted for ordnance and shot parks, anchor and chain storage, and is now occupied by quite a large number of guns, mortars, anchors, etc. The building for yard and dock purposes is now ready for roofing. It is 65 by 230 feet, and is built in the most substantial manner of brick, with granite dressings. The foundations are now being constructed for the iron-plating shop. The foundations for these heavy structures have not proved at all difficult. A very compact gravel stratum has been reached at a distance of only about twenty feet below the water level, into which piles are driven to support the masonry.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Swiss Times*, writing from Nice, France, November 29, 1873, thus speaks of the marriage of Lieutenant W. H. Reeder, to the daughter of Captain C. H. Wells, commanding the *Shenandoah*, then stationed at Ville Franche. "The event of the week was the marriage of the beautiful daughter of Captain Wells, commander of the *Shenandoah*, to Lieutenant Reeder of the United States Navy, and at present attached to the *Shenandoah*. The ceremony was performed on board of the vessel this morning at eleven o'clock by the Rev. Dr. McVickar, of the American church. The vessel was tastefully decorated with the flags of all nations. The bride and groom stood under an elegant canopy ornamented with a number of American flags. After the ceremony a salute of thirteen guns was fired for the people and the band entertained the company with some fine music. One of the pleasantest features of the occasion, however, was the presentation to Captain Wells of the Cross of the Legion of Honor by the Prefect of Nice in the name of President Thiers, representing the Republic of France. The honor was conferred on Captain Wells a year ago, but owing to his absence from French ports this was the first opportunity given of presenting it. Captain Wells, in reply to the complimentary speech of the Prefect, said that he felt highly honored in receiving the decoration, but he would not be able to accept it until he could receive permission from his Government. It is needless to say that the honor will be accepted by the Government, while all who know Captain Wells will agree that it could not be conferred on a better representative of a true American."

THE future disposition of the vessels which our little Spanish difficulty has called to the vicinity of Cuba, is a question of some interest to the officers and men who are on board of them, as well as to their families. We wish we were sufficiently enlightened to advise them on this subject. But we have no means of penetrating the designs and intentions of the departmental authorities, and therefore anything we may venture on the subject must be well considered by those who think of taking advantage of it. It may be safely stated that the *Shenandoah* will not go back to the European station again, as she was about leaving for home when the emergency hastened her; nor will the *Ticonderoga* return to Brazil, as her time is up. The *Lancaster* is another vessel which will hardly go back to her station. She has been there four or five years, and it was only through considerable repair she was made available for service. The *Wachusett* has been in commission two years and a half (having been commissioned June, 1871), and the term of service of her crew is about up. The chances are, therefore, against her going back to the Mediterranean. The *Wabash* was fitted out in October, 1871, and has consequently been in commission twenty-six months. It would not seem to be a matter of economy to send her back to Europe to stay six or eight months, unless, as has been done in several instances, it be contemplated to send out a new crew for her. Under the circumstances the *Wabash* may, with tolerable safety, be billeted for service near home the balance of her term. The *Congress* has been in commission upwards of three years (since August, 1870), has been on three distinct services—the North Atlantic station, the Arctic expedition, and the European station, and may be, or at least ought to be, put out of commission at once. The *Alaska* is, if these premises have a shadow of foundation, about the only vessel of the European station that may, with tolerable certainty, be set down for return to that station. She has recently been commissioned, and was in the Mediterranean but a few months when ordered to Key West. It is easier to figure out the probable return of vessels than to designate those to relieve them. To supply the places of these several ships whose times are up, there are the *Colorado*, *Franklin*, *Ossipee*, *Jesuita*, and *Brooklyn*—the latter fitting out. From these we can get a flagship for each of the two deficient stations; one other vessel, to supply the place of the

Ticonderoga, and two to take the place of three—the *Congress*, *Shenandoah*, and *Wachusett*. Of the cruising vessels on the North Atlantic station, the *Worcester* has been in commission nearly three years, and could very well be recalled and her place supplied by the *Wabash* for the balance of the term of the latter. The *Canandaigua*'s officers and crew have had a hard time of it in the tropics, and a few months in the Mediterranean would be refreshing. The *Poughatian* is too useful for escorting the monitors from port to port to be spared for foreign service, as well as too expensive for the latter, and the *Wyoming* has been too long in commission to be sent far abroad. The South Pacific station has only two cruisers, the flag-ship *Pensacola* and the *Omaha*, which scarcely seems to be enough, and so when we can the Navy Register, enumerate the cruising vessels available, and those entitled to go out of commission, we find that, independent of the iron-clads and small tugs just put ashore, no more vessels have been fitted out than are absolutely needed for immediate wants. The fitting out of these vessels, so far as the cruisers are concerned, has really been simply anticipation of what necessity would have required in but a very short time, and doing at once and somewhat hastily what would otherwise have been accomplished more leisurely.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

DECEMBER 17.—Midshipmen W. H. E. Masser and J. E. Reller, to temporary duty on board the *Franklin*, and upon falling in with the *Colorado* to report for duty on board the latter vessel.

Acting Assistant Surgeon W. W. Myers, to the *Minnesota*.

Acting Assistant Surgeon C. D. White, to the *Navy-yard*, Boston.

Acting Assistant Surgeon G. B. Todd, to the *Naval Hospital*, New York.

Assistant Paymaster Geo. E. Baughman, to the receiving ship *Potomac*.

DECEMBER 18.—Master C. B. Curtis to the receiving ship *Potomac* at Philadelphia.

Acting Assistant Surgeon J. W. Dillman, to the *Pawnee* at Key West, Fla.

DECEMBER 20.—Acting Gunner C. L. Duncan, to the receiving ship *Sabine*.

DECEMBER 22.—Commander Rush R. Wallace, as inspector of ordnance at the *Navy-yard*, Norfolk, Va.

DECEMBER 23.—Captain Edward Barrett, to command the *Ticonderoga*, at Key West, Fla., per steamer of 3d January next.

Commander Wm. K. Mayo, to command the *Omaha*, South Pacific Station, per steamer which leaves New York on the 8th January next.

Pay Inspector W. W. Williams, to perform the duties of fleet paymaster of the North Atlantic Station, in addition to his duties as paymaster of the flag ship.

DETACHED.

DECEMBER 17.—Lieutenant-Commander C. L. Huntington, from the *Richmond*, and leave granted for two months.

Lieutenant C. K. Meeker, from the *Torpedo Station*, and ordered to temporary duty on board the *Franklin*, and on falling in with the *Canandaigua* to report for duty on board that vessel.

Master J. W. Carlin, has reported his arrival home, having been detached from the *Monocacy*, Asiatic Station, on the 1st November last, and has been placed on waiting orders.

Chief Engineer A. J. Kierstad, from the *Franklin*, and placed on waiting orders.

Chief Engineer W. G. Buehler, from the *Minnesota*, and ordered to the *Franklin*.

Gunner Charles B. Magruder, from the *Pawnee*, and ordered to the *Navy-yard*, Pensacola.

Gunner James M. Hogg, from the *Navy-yard*, Pensacola, and placed on waiting orders.

Gunner W. E. Webber, from the *Navy-yard*, Norfolk, and ordered to the *Pawnee*.

DECEMBER 18.—Midshipman Thomas C. Wood has reported his arrival home, having been detached from the *Wabash* on the 1st November last, and has been placed on waiting orders.

DECEMBER 19.—Second Assistant Engineer C. F. Purdie, from the Bureau of Steam Engineering, and ordered to the *Proteus*.

Master Thomas W. Fortune, from the *Naval Magazine*, Kittery, Me., and ordered to the *Navy-yard*, Portsmouth, N. H.

DECEMBER 20.—Captain Thomas G. Corbin, as Light-house Inspector of the Fourth District, 1st January next, and placed on waiting orders.

Commander George B. White, from the *Navy-yard*, Philadelphia, and ordered to duty as inspector of the Fourth Light-house District on the 1st January next.

Master Thomas S. Phelps, from the *Kearsarge*, and granted sick leave for three months.

Surgeon George H. Cooke, from the Marine Rendevous, Philadelphia, and placed on waiting orders.

Surgeon J. R. Tryon, from the Marine Rendevous, New York, and placed on waiting orders.

Assistant Surgeon C. L. Cassin, from the Marine Rendevous, Boston, and ordered to the *Naval Rendevous*, Boston.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Thomas Owen, from the Marine Rendevous, Baltimore, and placed on waiting orders.

DECEMBER 22.—Captain S. B. Luce, from the command of the *Minnesota*, and ordered to resume his duties at the *Navy-yard*, Boston.

Lieutenant-Commander John C. Keane, from the *Alaska*, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant-Commander H. B. Robeson, from the *Minnesota*, and ordered to the iron-clad steamer *Dixie* as executive.

Lieutenants A. V. Wadhams and C. H. Stockton, from the *Dixie*, and ordered to Newport, R. I., for instruction in torpedo service.

Lieutenants Charles M. Thomas and F. J. Drake, from the *Terror*, and ordered to Newport, R. I., for instruction in torpedo service.

Lieutenants R. M. Berry, Uriel Sebree, and F. P. Gimmons, from the *Minnesota*, and ordered to the iron-clad steamer *Dixie*.

Lieutenant-Commander G. F. F. Wilde and Boatswain Asst. Keene, from the *Minnesota*, and ordered to resume duties at the *Navy-yard*, Boston.

Masters J. M. Hawley and H. F. Schaefer, from the *Minnesota*, and ordered to the returning ship *Vermont* at New York.

Lieutenant A. B. H. Lillie, Chaplain J. J. Kane, and Carpenter S. N. Whitehouse, from the *Minnesota*, and placed on waiting orders.

Gunner John Gaskins and Acting Sailmaker A. W. Stephens, from the *Minnesota*, and ordered to the receiving ship *Vermont* at New York.

Sailmaker Samuel Tatem, from the *Ossipee*, and placed on sick leave.

DECEMBER 23.—Captain J. C. Febiger, from the command of the *Omaha*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to return home and report arrival.

Ensigns C. F. Emmerick and M. C. Dimock, and Midshipman A. A. Michelson, from the *Minnesota*, and ordered to the *Roanoke*.

Medical Director T. M. Potter, from the *Navy-yard*, Mare Island, Cal., and ordered to return home and wait orders.

Medical Inspector J. S. Dungan, from the *Minnesota*, and ordered to the *Naval Hospital*, Navy-yard, Mare Island, Cal.

Medical Inspector J. M. Brown, from the *Naval Hospital*, Mare Island, Cal., and ordered to the *Navy-yard* at that station.

Paid Assistant Surgeon W. J. Simon, Acting Assistant Surgeon W. W. Myers, and Paymaster Joseph A. Smith, from the *Minnesota*, and placed on waiting orders.

ORDERS REVOKED.

The orders of Lieutenant-Commander H. F. Picking, to the *Dixie*, and to remain on duty at the *Torpedo Station*.

The orders of Lieutenant J. E. Pillsbury, to the *Minnesota*, and to remain on duty at the *Torpedo Station*.

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GATLING GUNS, which fire 400 shots per minute, are now manufactured at Colt's Armory, Hartford, Conn. By the use of these arms the greatest possible effect with the least possible expense can be obtained.

SEVENTH REGIMENT CHARITY BALL,

For the Benefit of the Poor of the City of New York.

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REFERRENCES BY SPECIAL AGREEMENT.

General Sherman, U. S. Army, and lady, Washington, D. C.;
Admiral David D. Porter, U. S. N., Washington, D. C.; Major-
General G. G. Meade, U. S. Army, Philadelphia; Brevet Brigadier-
General George Sykes, U. S. Army; Brigadier-General I. N. Palmer,
U. S. Army, Omaha, Neb.; Brigadier-General L. P. Graham,
U. S. Army, San Francisco, Cal.; Brigadier-General Wm. M. Graham,
U. S. Army, Fort Hamilton, N. Y.; Mrs. Admiral Dahlgren,
Washington, D. C.

SOME one writes to a Milwaukee daily to suggest that additional pay is due officers who served between August 6, 1861 (when the pay of privates was raised from \$11 to \$13), and July 17, when an act was passed declaring "that the act of August 6, 1861, should not, after the passage of this act, be construed to increase the emoluments of officers," and after June 20, 1864, when the pay was further increased to \$16 a month, without repealing the laws of 1861 and 1866. "In relation to the back pay actually due," adds the writer, "the departments say that the law of March 3, 1865, is not retroactive! But it is not claimed that it is. The claim is founded upon the laws of 1861 and 1866, which have not been repealed, and have been inoperative only by a special enactment from July 17, 1862, until June 20, 1864." The pay due is from \$40 to \$140 for each officer, and the total sum due is between two and three millions. Our advice is to do with it what some Congressmen are doing with their "back pay"—cover it into the Treasury. It will cost more than it comes to get it.

The following promotions in the Navy were confirmed by the Senate December 19:

Commodore William Reynolds, to be Rear-Admiral in the Navy, vice Rear Admiral T. A. Jenkins, retired; Commodore J. H. Strong, to be Rear-Admiral, vice Charles Steedman, retired; Commodore Enoch G. Parrott, to be Rear-Admiral, vice William Rogers Taylor, retired; Commodore J. J. Almy, to be Rear-Admiral, vice G. F. Emmons, retired; Captains Donald McN. Fairfax, James H. Spotts, and James W. A. Nicholson, to be commodores, and a large number of corresponding promotions made in the lower grades, together with various promotions in the staff corps of the Navy and appointments of second lieutenants in the Army.

THE steamer *General Sherman*, which was taken charge of by Commander Cushing, of the *Wyoming*, in the harbor of Aspinwall, has been decided to be sailing under improper colors, and will be brought to a port of the United States, in order that legal measures may be taken against her for violation of the navigation laws of the United States.

HON. CALEB CUSHING has accepted the invitation to deliver the address at the proposed National Convention of the Survivors of the Mexican War, to be held on the 15th of January, at Willard Hall, Washington.

IN an order issued December 19, Secretary Delano, of the Department of the Interior, says:

"From and after the 1st of January, 1874, the absence from his post of duty of any territorial or other officer under the control of this Department without special permission will be accepted as a tender of his resignation, and will be acted upon accordingly. Any officer asking leave of absence will accompany his request with a statement of the cause for making such request. The frequent and, it is believed, often unnecessary absence of officers under the control of this Department from their posts of duty, with or without leave, has occasioned such inconvenience and detriment to the public service as to render this order imperatively necessary."

U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

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Rates of Advertising.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line space; four insertions 20 cents; thirteen insertions, 18 cents; twenty-six insertions, 15 cents; fifty-two insertions, 12 cents. Editorial page advertising column, 40 cents per line.

OUR MONITORS.

THE insufficiency of laminated armor to resist heavy rifled ordnance having been pointed out by prominent British officers, we made the following explanation in our issue of October 13, 1866: "We advise our maritime friends not to calculate on finding laminated armor only to practise against, should unhappily a conflict ever occur. The monitor turret is purposely so put together that its plating may be readily removed and changed. So with regard to the side armor; it forms no part of the hull, and may be detached and replaced at any time. The entire armor backing and plating of the *Passaic* class of monitors were in some instances applied in little over a month."

It will be remembered that Captain SHERARD OSBORN, in his memorable letter to the London Times of September 22, 1866, said, respecting short ranges in connection with our monitors: "When it comes to that distance, having a steam engine under foot, there will be a much closer hug, be assured, and the boarders and riflemen with needle guns will settle the question whether English sailors have lost their cunning." Our reply was: "We can assure the gallant Captain that neither cunning boarders nor needle guns will avail against monitors, for however inviting their low decks may appear, when the sea is not high enough to wash intruders overboard, our deck scrapers will infallibly be at work—a 'cunning' contrivance consisting of elongated shells which suddenly rise above the deck and instantly explode. Experiments on wooden representatives of an enterprising enemy have shown, that by this inhospitable mode of receiving visitors, a whole ship's crew may be swept off the monitor's deck in an instant."

Now that unhappily a conflict may occur, have our monitors been provided with *deck scrapers*?—has the laminated plating been replaced by *solid armor*? If not, are we in a position to challenge maritime nations provided with iron-clad ships and rifled ordnance of heavy calibre? Our naval authorities cannot plead ignorance regarding the resisting power of armor of different kinds, since the widest possible publicity has been given to the result of English and continental rifle practice against armor plates of all sorts. Accordingly, every naval officer here and elsewhere, knows that the eleven one-inch plates composing our monitor turrets may be easily penetrated by chilled shot projected by rifle guns of scarcely eight inch calibre. The Swedes, who copied our monitors before the advent of heavy rifled ordnance, have since abolished the laminated armor; the turrets of their last monitors and turreted gun-boats, are built of solid plates. The Norwegians are also now engaged in reconstructing their monitors, applying solid armor. The published result of target practice at Finspong, near Stockholm, is conclusive as to the utter inability of the laminated armor, which necessity compelled us to employ during the war, to resist chilled cast-iron rifle shot. The rifled guns employed by the Swedes in the target practice referred to, are made of cast-iron hooped with steel bands, on the French system, the bore being twenty-four centimetres or nine and one-third inches. The targets, twelve inches in thickness, were built up of plates two inches thick, com-

posed of the best Swedish iron, bolted together on the same plan as the plates of the monitor turrets. The range was two hundred yards, yet each shot passed through the target and two feet of wood backing, entering the bank of earth behind the target to a depth of eight feet. Apart from this destructive effect, bolts and splinters of the broken armor plates, weighing from 300 to 500 pounds, were detached at each shot.

With reference to Captain OSBORN's objection, that the slow monitors may be boarded by the crews of swift iron-clads, it may be urged that monitors being intended for harbor defence only, and drawing very little water, may lie in shoal water along the ship channels, thus rendering an approach of the deep draught iron-clads impossible. But, we now propose to go into deep water with our light draught low vessels. It needs no demonstration to show that a bold, enterprising commander of a heavily armored ship, with his superior number of men, may board and capture these low decked vessels unless protected by the deck scrapers, the elongated shells which may be instantly exploded whenever required. It is quite true that the deck scrapers are of little utility in monitors with *laminated armor*; since these vessels might be disposed of by their antagonists, by a few well directed rifle shot at convenient range, as demonstrated by the rifle practice at Finspong.

Our readers who are familiar with the subject are aware that Captain ERICSSON's defence of the monitor system, published in this and leading European journals, has been based on the assumption that the turret plating, as well as the side armor, is composed of *solid plates*. We are not aware that any successful demonstration has yet been published disproving his proposition that, for light draught, no other form of iron-clad can compete with the monitor. We need scarcely remind our readers that several northern European powers early adopted the monitor system; but the significant fact demands special attention, that the German Empire, with the light of experience and in the face of all objections raised, is now building monitors for its coast defense. In view of the foregoing facts the country, no doubt, expects to be informed of the causes which have operated to induce the Navy Department to abandon the monitor system so far as to deem it unnecessary to substitute solid plating for the inefficient laminated armor. We have no reason to suppose that Congress would have refused to grant an appropriation necessary to procure solid armor, if informed that without it we are unable to make any defence against even a weak enemy possessing iron-clad ships and modern rifled ordnance. Unfortunately our opponents understand the matter perfectly well; they know that the heavy ten-inch Armstrong rifles of the *Arapiles*, at short range, can send their pointed projectiles in at one side and nearly out at the other of our laminated turrets. At long range, the penetration will be sufficiently deep to strew the turret flooring with fragments of broken bolts and plates, as shown by employing moderate charges during the Swedish target practice before referred to.

We strongly recommend the Secretary of the Navy to ask Congress again for an appropriation to put our best monitors in order, stating specifically that it is for the purpose of covering them with solid armor. That Congress is willing to perfect these vessels we infer from a recent grant of \$50,000 merely for a patented plan (WILMART'S) of raising the turrets by hydraulic pressure—more particularly as the plan was of questionable utility, it having been demonstrated by competent judges to be not only imperfect, but dangerous, on the ground that any defect, the smallest leak for instance, of the hydraulic apparatus, would render it impossible to turn the turret. \$50,000 would probably supply deck scrapers for the whole fleet of monitors.

THE surrender of the *Virginia*, and the prisoners taken with her, which is an accomplished fact, will leave a respectable fleet in the waters of Key West and vicinity, with their "occupation gone." We will have then, first the vessels from the European Station—the *Wabash*, *Congress*, *Shenandoah*, *Wachusett* and *Alaska*; second, the *Lancaster* and *Ticonderoga*, from the South Atlantic Station; third, the *Worcester*, *Poughkeepsie*, *Canandaigua*, *Wyoming*, *Otsego*, *Juniata*, *Kansas*, *Colorado*, *Manhattan*, *Mahopac*, *Sau-*

gus, Pawnee, Despatch, Pinta, Mayflower, Fortune, and perhaps the Franklin, of the North Atlantic Station—a total of about twenty-four vessels and 280 guns. All the vessels mentioned above are not there at this time, but may be expected early in January. It is not to be supposed that, after the final settlement of the Virginian trouble, the presence of these vessels will be necessary on that station for any length of time. Their services there being no longer required, there will be no obstacle to their being at once spread abroad, or return to port. The question of indemnity to the heirs of the Santiago de Cuba victims is a subject for future consideration at the best, and no one can doubt, after the sympathy which has been shown for the promising young Republic, and the consideration that has been given to the delicate feelings of the citizens of Havana (saving them the mortification of witnessing the surrender of the Virginian), that the indemnity matter will be most satisfactorily settled also.

We were about to suggest, in view of the latest cable despatches from Madrid, of a demand having been made on our Government "for the return of the steamship Virginian and her passengers and crew," that it would be well to keep this respectable fleet afloat in readiness to resist the enforcement of the demand; but on further thought it occurs that such a measure would be unwise, as it is hardly possible that the kindly feeling for the rising young Republic, and the consideration for our very sensitive neighbors in Havana, would permit us to deny the justice of the claim or refuse the surrender. One thought leads to another. As the Virginian may be returned to Cuba, and her passengers surrendered for summary trial (an event not at all unlikely) instead of taking her to some obscure port on the Southern coast and delivering her to some Spanish official, it would be more dignified and more in accordance with our sympathy for the young Republic, and our consideration for the feelings of the Havana, to send the whole fleet with her, with instructions to the commander thereof to enter Havana and turn her over amidst all the pomp of which twenty-four vessels, their officers and crew, are capable. Anticipating a surrender, it may still be well to keep this fleet rendezvoused at Key West.

WE have obtained further information in regard to the experiments at Boston, under the direction of Mr. WIARD, from which we are able to estimate more exactly the value of the results he has obtained. The powder used was MARVIN'S Sample Powder, from the Oriental Powder Works, and much stress has been laid upon the fact that so heavy a charge of powder was used, doubtless forgetting that the Naval Bureau of Ordnance has worked up to a charge of 150 pounds for the 15-inch gun. The proof of this result is shown in the "Circular to Commanders of Iron-clads," which we published a fortnight since, directing the use of 100 pounds as the battering charge for the 15-inch naval gun with solid shot.

The rifling of the gun experimented upon by Mr. WIARD is of the ordinary style—two broad and shallow grooves of a long pitch which serve to give rotation to a very short shot, weighing no more than the round shot. Of course a pointed shot of this weight, fired with this charge of powder, at a target composed of five 3-inch plates built up from $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch plates, knocked the target to pieces; so did the round shot, as was found on subsequently digging out the second target, which Mr. WIARD omitted to do.

The only peculiarity in the WIARD system is in having a very light shot, with two long flanges, or "giba," as he calls them, to take the grooves, accurately planed, and rows of little studs, or "bouts," as he prefers to call them, to raise the shot up and accurately centre it in the bore. All this is recognized by everybody, but these delicate "giba" and "bouts," with an infinitesimal windage are entirely impracticable in service. At short ranges the pointed shot will undoubtedly do more penetration, but the real object of the rifle is to punch a hole with the head and follow it with a bursting charge contained in the cylinder. He has no cylinder; the projectile is all point.

The whole question of rifling cast-iron guns has been very ably argued by Mr. BARKLEY BRITTON, C. E., in England, but he only advocates their use

as secondary pieces. Of course with guns like the 15-inch they are very powerful; but as we have only a limited number, it would be spoiling a good smooth-bore to make an indifferent rifle. BRITTON, however, had a better idea than WIARD, as he proposed firing rifled shot of two calibers in length with reduced charges, giving equal strain and recoil with the regular charge and round shot, but more effective beyond 1,000 or 1,500 yards.

BY an order of the Bureau of Navigation, dated December 31, 1869, the time-honored broad pennant of an American commodore was hauled down and the present striped flag hoisted in its place. The pennant that PREBLE wore when he taught Europe how to subdue the Barbary powers; that PERRY, in the full tide of battle, shifted from the Lawrence to the Niagara; that flew from the main of the Saratoga when McDONOUGH added fresh lustre to its stars—the pennant clustering with glorious traditions and endeared to the Navy by long and varied associations—this pennant of our old commodores, the fathers of our Navy, was struck to give place to an unsightly, meaningless flag!—a flag barren of beauty, devoid of taste, unsuggestive, unsympathetic, arousing no memories, nourishing no traditions, and absolutely without one single attribute to enlist the affections or command respect! And this simply to "utilize" the National Ensign!

Our beautiful flag was "utilized" in obedience to the order, amid the jeers of the sailors and silence and sorrow on the part of the officers. It was thought that time would reconcile the Navy to the change. Four years have passed, however, and the regret for the loss of the old colors has but been intensified; and it is hoped that the earnest wish of the Navy in this matter may receive the attention it is entitled to. There can be no question as to what that wish is, for some time since a petition, asking for a return to the distinctive flags according to the signal code of 1866, was circulated throughout the service. The admirals all signed it—PORTER, ROWAN, WORDEN, etc., and so on down the list. The petition flew so like wildfire, and was so eagerly subscribed to, that after getting several fathoms of signatures it was thought a sufficient indication of the sentiments of the Navy at large, and without going further it was then sent to the Secretary of the Navy, since when it has not been heard from. Somebody interviewed General BUTLER on the subject, and he replied with his accustomed vigor that he would go in for the change back to the old flag; for, said he, "I know FARRAGUT had a perfect contempt for this striped flag—this bad imitation of a Bremen flag, as he called it, and hoped it would never be put over his coffin."

The order making the change was as follows:

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION, NAVY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, December 31, 1869.
To Officers Commanding, Squadrons.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary of the Navy, the following instructions are promulgated:

As the Jack is taken from the Union of the ensign, in order to utilize the latter still further, the stripes will compose the flag of flag officers, and the broad pennants of commanders of squadrons, made in the usual shape and size, according to the designs in the new signal book. Very respectfully, etc.

JAMES ALDEN, Chief of Bureau.

Let us have a return to the old order, and let the Admiral's flag be fixed by law as part of our national colors, so as not to be subject to change at the whim of anybody.

ASSISTANT SURGEON HARVEY E. BROWN, U. S. Army, has compiled under the direction of the Surgeon-General, and the Government has printed, a concise, but complete history of the Medical Department of the Army, from its inception in 1775 down to the present time. The work is not called by its author history, as we have designated it, but more modestly, "Historical Notes concerning the Medical Department." It is divided into five parts, giving first the Department during the Revolution, then from the close of the Revolution to the reduction of the Army in 1821; from the reorganization of the Corps in 1821 to the declaration of war with Mexico; from the opening of the Mexican war up to the bombardment of Fort Sumter in 1861; lastly from the beginning of the Rebellion to the present time. All these different periods, which are the ones into which the history of the Medical Staff naturally divides itself, are reviewed with a fullness of detail and well-rounded body of narrative, that we did not expect to find in a volume of such comparatively slender proportions. Moreover the author's style is

clear and incisive, and the arrangement of facts consecutive and methodical. Dr. BROWN assuredly deserves credit for a work that must have cost great labor of research, collation, and condensation. He has produced a notable record of ninety-eight years of honorable achievement and remarkable progress. As he remarks: "The successors of those pioneers in American military surgery can say with pride that during that long period they have taken no step backward. To-day the great surgeons of Europe recognize their indebtedness to us for much that constitutes progress in military medicine, hygiene, and surgery, and European governments send special commissions to avail themselves of the vast treasures of experience accumulated by the Medical Department in our last war."

As an appendix to the volume, are given registers of medical officers who served during the Revolution, and were discharged in 1783, and of all who served from 1789 down to the present time. A complete and careful index, a feature which much increases the value of such a book as this, closes the history.

Parallel with this volume is a noteworthy pamphlet by Dr. WILLIAM R. E. SMART, inspector-general of hospitals and fleets, entitled, "Notes Towards the History of the Medical Staff of the English Army Prior to the Accession of the Tudors" (London: T. RICHARDS). This gives us not only a sketch of the progress of the military medical staff, but also incidentally that of medicine itself, and forms a contribution to historical research of interest to laymen as well as physicians. Dr. SMART, though he finds that the Romans had *medici* held in high esteem at the time of the third Roman invasion (A. D. 43), yet is unable to fix the date when an army medical service had actual existence with the English themselves earlier than the year 1300, in the time of Edward I. It appears that even so late as the third crusade these expeditions were unattended by any professors of medical and surgical knowledge; but during the period of the crusades the celebrated Arabian school of medicine was at its height, and it is to be inferred that the Christians did not altogether refuse its offices. The first half of the fourteenth century was the era of the moulding of the profession into its present form. The universities were established and granted degrees in medicine, and physicians were men of liberal education. At the battle of Agincourt (1415) a regular surgical staff was present under the control of a chief eminent in his art, and from that time the army medical service grew in consistency and organization.

In the JOURNAL of October 25 we published an extract from the *Broad Arrow* in reference to torpedoes, and especially to the reprinting by our Government of Colonel STOTHARD's "confidential work on submarine mines." Our English contemporary complained that while this valuable report had got into foreign hands, it had yet failed to reach those of working officers at home, who at last only obtained access to its facts in a foreign republication, and that through the synopsis given by an English mechanical newspaper, which had in some way obtained a copy of this "confidential" republication of a "confidential" document of the British War Department. The copy used by our Government for reprinting was, we have always understood, purchased, and the work was reprinted "confidentially" at the Government printing press, for the use of the officers of our Navy; but some copies were promised for the use of our Army engineers, and, we suppose, were furnished. Yet we find that a copy reached England, from which *Broad Arrow's* "contemporary, Iron, has drawn up a series of papers on the subject," before our most prominent and interested officers received one; we suppose this may have been purchased also. In this connection we may say that last year a work was published by our Engineers, containing much information valuable to every officer; and yet the Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance of the Navy never received a copy of it. Subsequently, however, he learned he could have obtained one in London—price £10! Now all this proves that "confidential" communications once put in print are, in fact, no longer confidential. People all over the world who are eagerly seeking knowledge, are generally ready to buy it, and if the information they wish is actually in print it is pretty safe to assume that it may be bought. Our observation tells us that things known to but a few at first, while many are looking for them, soon become public, in spite of all the bans of secrecy that may be imposed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

A DOUBTING THOMAS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Your correspondent "A. W. H." may be the best posted up man in the country on the subject of life insurance, but the plan he enunciates seems to me to be only good for the old fellows in the Army who expect to drop off in the course of a few years—and himself, as he volunteers to run the institution if each officer of the Army and Navy will pay \$3 entrance fee and \$3 per annum dues—that is, say 4,000 officers at \$3 gives \$12,000 which will fit up quite a snug office for him, and then the \$12,000 per annum will in these hard times be quite a comfortable salary for doing the little work such an office would require.

It has taken a good many years for life insurance actuaries to develop and perfect the sliding scale of premiums—to make the payments for different ages equitable—but A. W. H. cuts the Gordian knot by making all pay alike—the octogenarian with one foot in the grave, as well as the young second lieutenant, full of health and with a prospect of many years before him.

I don't wonder at his willingness to undertake the running of an institution on his plan. I'd do it myself at the same pay, and thank him for the chance.

SOFT THING.

ARMY LIFE INSURANCE.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: In the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL of Nov. 8, I notice a communication in regard to Army life insurance. Would it not be well for the officers to form a mutual life insurance association something after the system adopted by the Masonic Relief Association of Elmira, N. Y.?—that is, pay a certain sum to become a member of the association, and then upon the death of a member occurring each surviving member to pay a certain assessment to the association, which is to be paid to the widow or heirs of the deceased member; the business to be conducted by elected officers; all members to remain such as long as their dues are paid, and the insurance not to be liable to seizure for debt; the assessment on each member whenever a death occurs in the association to be \$1 or \$2, or such sum as the association may decide upon, to be the same, however, in all assessments. No one would feel this slight expense. Yet in the aggregate it would amount to a sum that would at least be a help to those who otherwise might be left destitute.

ONE INTERESTED.

KRUPP'S GUNS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: As a matter of interest to my brother artillerists, I send some notes taken from Krupp's pamphlet, giving this year's experiments with his twelve-inch rifle. The top carriage weighs 13,712 lbs., and the chassis 34,507 lbs. There are no eccentricities on the chassis. The rear wheels of the top carriage are upon an eccentric axle, but it is seldom put in gear. There is a wedge-shaped piece fastened on top of the chassis rail, just in rear of the top carriage when in battery. The recoil thus throws the carriage on rolling friction, and it runs back into battery automatically. The piece is traversed by means of a chain and a system of wheels attached to the rear of the chassis. A rope and windlass is used to raise the hot. The traverse circles are convex, and the chassis wheels are grooved to fit them, and thus assist the pintle in meeting the shock of the recoil. An hydraulic buffer checks the recoil, and a row of gum-elastic buffers at each end of the chassis receives the shock of the top carriage as it runs in or out of battery. The powder was prismatic, pierced with seven channels for ignition, specific gravity 1.75. The cartridge was built up compactly, each layer containing forty-four prisms. With a charge of 185 pounds, and a shot weighing 675 pounds, the initial velocity was 1,510 feet; velocity of recoil, 1,378 feet; pressure, 30,000 pounds. The piece is twenty-two feet or calibres long, has seventy-two grooves, has no preponderance, and weighs, with its ferramenta, 32,850 pounds. The pamphlet uses the French system of measures and weights. The figures above give the equivalents approximately in our own system.

VIOLATION OF ARMY REGULATIONS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: I beg leave to call attention to the following paragraph (page 107) of the proposed Revised Army Regulations, hoping that its extraordinary provisions may, through the medium of your paper, be brought to the notice of Congress:

"Urgent circumstances may require a commanding officer to give an order in violation of these [the proposed] regulations. For its propriety and necessity he is responsible to his seniors in command. His seniors cannot plead that this is a violation of law, but must obey the order unless such order be manifestly against the laws of the land."

The above concedes to every commander the right to ignore wholly, or disregard in part, any of the requirements of the Regulations which are expected to receive the official sanction of Congress. Of the "urgency of the circumstances" demanding a violation of said Regulations such commander is generally the sole judge; for his responsibility to his seniors in command is practically no restraint upon the officer commanding a frontier station, hundreds of miles remote from, and without other than stage or irregular communication with, the headquarters of the department. His juniors are expressly prohibited from interfering with, and inferentially from protesting against, the exercise of authority outside the

Regulations. Nor is the commanding officer who exercises such authority required to make a report thereof to his superior.

Surely, so unlimited a power, while wholly unnecessary to a just officer, especially in time of peace, cannot fail to become a dangerous instrument when wielded by a jealous, capricious or tyrannical commander. It is believed the majority of the board which prepared the proposed Regulations were field officers of line—a class from which post commanders are usually selected. Without relying on the objectionable paragraph quoted, these gentlemen were careful to clothe commanding officers with ample authority for the proper administration of affairs within their jurisdiction and for the maintenance of a rigorous discipline. Why the board should give such officers license to violate the regulations *ad libitum*—for that the responsibility to seniors is not an adequate check has already been demonstrated—must forever remain a mystery to the impartial mind.

This paragraph should be expunged, or so modified as to take away a power under cover of which reprehensible acts, annoying to zealous inferiors and prejudicial to the well-being of the service, might with impunity be committed by unscrupulous commanders.

The proposed regulations, for which the honorable Secretary of War claims that they are merely in aid and complement to the statutes, do away with a safeguard of the utmost moment to the younger officers against protracted persecution under color of lawful authority—a safeguard now guaranteed by statutory law. Section 2, chapter 200, act of July, 1862, is the law alluded to, which, while rendering an officer amenable to trial for a year after the alleged commission of an offence, terminates his arrest after the expiration of a certain period therein stated. This reasonable, just, and humane provision of Congress seems in danger of being overthrown, should the seventy-fifth article of war of the new regulations be adopted.

A CO-COMMANDER.

THE ARMY REGISTER.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Many officers have their Army Registers bound, and it would be a great addition to their value as a book of reference if they would show the proper station of each officer of the Army at the date of issue. This could be done in the case of line officers, with scarcely any addition to the size of the volume, if a column was added to each page giving the officer's company and a folding sheet inserted showing the station of each company, as the JOURNAL does now each month. If the JOURNAL can afford space for such an exhibit, surely the Register can. This suggestion is offered now, as the time for the annual appearance of the Register is near at hand.

PIPE-STEM.

TOBACCO PUFFS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Since the days of Sir Walter Raleigh, the chivalrous knight of olden times, tobacco, notwithstanding the opposition of kings and the warnings of physicians, has steadily grown in favor among civilized nations, until, like coffee, it has passed from the domain of luxuries into that of necessary comforts. As the day is not fitly begun without the fragrant bowl of steaming moka, so it is not fitly done without a pipe of old Virginny weed. The effects of both on the nervous system are acknowledged by every one, and chiefly by the soldier. The question of beneficial or deleterious result he leaves to be discussed by learned professors, and only knows that the one sustains him and the other soothes him.

Who on a campaign, amid the dust and heat of the marching column, has not looked forward to the time of "retreat" and a pipe of tobacco, or in his comfortless tent waited at night for the "general" to usher in the day and the morning draught of coffee? Many soldiers would rather forego their cup of coffee than do without their pipe of tobacco. By such the latter is deemed an indispensable adjunct of subsistence, and the Government, which of late years has been so liberal to the soldier, might, by recognizing this fact and legalizing the issue of tobacco as one of the component parts of the Army ration, win his everlasting gratitude. Not long ago, in lieu of sugar and coffee, the soldier was expected to bolt a gill of raw spirits daily. How flat the breakfasts in those days! How cheerless the evening repast! *Tempora mutantur, etc.* The rebel government issued its soldiers tobacco free of charge. Are our soldiers worse than rebels, that they should pay for it?

CARTOUCHE.

FAIR PLAY FOR THE INFANTRY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: The chiefs of the staff corps and departments permit no opportunity of recommending the repeal of the law prohibiting staff promotions to pass unimproved. The Paymaster-General desires promotion opened and the number of paymasters increased. The Secretary of War tells us, and most truly, that very serious and increasing injury has resulted to the service from the prohibition of appointments and promotions in the Medical Corps.

The Secretary also reports that the Chief of Ordnance calls attention to the "many potent arguments" so often presented in favor of the repeal of the prohibitory enactment, and "refers to the hardship and humiliation to which officers of merit and long service have been subjected . . . by being deprived of their deserved promotion, the only reward held out in their profession for years of duty well performed."

In your issue of the 6th inst., Mr. Editor, you say truly and well: "It is the worst possible policy to shut out any class of officers from the hope of promotion, and we trust that Congress will perceive the mistake it has made in this direction."

All this is well. I honor the chiefs of corps and departments who show some interest in the advancement of their subordinate officers. I applaud the sentiments expressed in your editorial, and I trust that Congress will

perceive its mistake and rectify it, not only in the case of the staff, but in that of the line.

In the infantry arm, "officers of merit and long service," hard and dangerous service, too—not at agreeable stations in populous cities, or at pleasant arsenals with charming conservatories and beautifully laid out grounds but on the far frontier, in the Indian country, with the blackened surface of the burnt prairie spreading on all sides as far as the eye can reach—"officers of merit and long service," I repeat, are virtually shut out from their deserved promotion. There are officers in the infantry to-day, of twenty years' standing, who are still captains and who cherish a faint hope of being majors in ten or fifteen years more—if they have extraordinary good luck. Captains of ten and twelve years standing, who have reached the first page of the lineal list, have a chance of being majors in thirty years, at the present rate of promotion. The junior captain of the infantry arm has an average chance of being a major in one hundred and twenty four years and six months, or thereabout. If these officers are not practically shut out from promotion, it is hard to understand what shutting out is.

Yet no one says a word for the infantry. The cavalry and artillery have each three majors to a regiment—the regiments of infantry have been reduced to one. Thus old officers of education, experience, and merit, see themselves left behind by their juniors in age, and by no means their superiors in professional ability or general culture in other branches of the service. Captains of infantry have often to do the regimental and post work of field officers. Give them a chance for the rank that belongs to the labor. Give them some hope of obtaining "the only reward held out in their profession for years of duty well performed." Let Congress give to the infantry the same number of majors as the cavalry and artillery. The men who compose the Congress of the United States are neither illiberal nor unjust. If they are shown what is right, they will do it.

Give in your voice, Mr. Editor, in favor of justice to that branch of the service which has been termed "the soul of armies," and which always has to do the hard work in "the big wars that make ambition virtue."

I. S. R.

THE RECORD OF THE WARD-BURTON

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: We beg to call the attention of the readers of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL to some points suggested by the report of the U. S. Small Arms Board, as summarized in its issue of December 13.

Contained in the report is an abstract of monthly reports from the Army on the results of the use of the experimental breech-loading rifles and carbines from May, 1871, to March, 1873. It is stated that there were 1,089 of the Ward-Burton guns issued along with a similar number of Remingtons, Sharps, and Springfields; that out of 40,070 cartridges fired with the Ward-Burton, 970 failed, giving a percentage of 0.0243 misfires, thus putting it second as compared with the three above-mentioned guns.

Now it will be seen on looking over the original report that this percentage of misfires in advance is 0.024 by the misfires in one particular company, all the other companies showing excellent reports, and in that particular company the misfires were all owing to imperfect cartridges, not to any defect in the mechanism of the arm itself.

The proportionate number of parts (not principal parts, as the report has it) of the Ward-Burton broken is by the report 162—that is, by 1,000 guns in 1,000 months. This calculation is based on the supposition that the several systems of guns were placed in the field at the same time, and remained there up to a certain date; but in reality the Ward-Burton was there only one-third as long as the three other systems, so that the calculation should be 334 guns in 334 months, and not 1,000 guns in 1,000 months, thereby giving to the others the benefit of a longer period over which to distribute their breakages, and in the end to decrease their percentage.

The Ward-Burton was not only in the field but one-third as long as the others, but also was a system entirely new to the men: their prejudice against a strange gun had to be overcome, and they had to be taught its manipulation and mechanism; all of which obstacles the other systems had not to contend with, their guns having been long known to the troops.

From the fact alone that the system was new to the soldiers, their inexperience would give in the first one-third of the time the greatest number of breakages; but in the last two-thirds, the men becoming familiarized with the gun, the accidents to the parts would diminish very rapidly. Now the Ward-Burton having been in the hands of the troops only the first one-third of the time, and no allowance being made for this fact, the high percentage is plainly accounted for.

Looking over the report, and observing the broken parts charged to the Ward-Burton, we find that with the exception of several breech bolts to which we refer hereafter, they are pieces not more essential to the system than to any of the others, such as guard screws,* the loss of which by carelessness of the soldiers, and not alone by breaking, goes to make up the bulk of broken parts.

Of the number of fractures in the 1,089 issued, the actual number of broken stocks was 20, 9 of which were in one company of the Second Cavalry, while the same number of Springfields were broken in another company of the Fourth Cavalry, and all in the same month.

There are reported as broken 17 breech bolts (the actual number on careful examination proves to be 11), and these were found to be all broken in the same place; and on investigation by experts it was found that the metal had been over-heated in the manufacture, and

* The test was completed. During the second fifty rounds one cartridge missed fire and failed to explode under the prick punch. During the fifth fifty rounds, the front guard screw was broken, showing signs of excessively coarse crystalline structure. It was replaced, and the trial gone on with. This is significant, as the screws and parts are not made one by one.

consequently of a coarse crystalline structure: this was shown to the Board at the time. The part broken, too, in no way interfered with the safety or proper working of the mechanism. But by a blunder in the reports, they continually confound the parts, reporting as breech bolts unimportant pieces, and making minor breaks and losses to appear as though they involved important parts of the system, when they are directly the opposite.

One report is that the gun is "too complicated." The maker of that report surely talks very loosely. Why, it has less parts by one-half, and takes two motions less to load and fire than the Springfield.

One captain calls it "a dangerous arm in time of war." Wits are not confined to civil life alone. The author of that brilliant remark is a man born out of time. He should have lived in the age of Addison, when he would have had a more appropriate field for his fancy than in concocting official reports.

We challenge a comparison of the first issues of the Springfields, Sharps, and Remingtons, in all of which the percentage of broken and injured parts was many times greater than the percentage given in this report.

The fact must be taken into consideration that before any experimental arms were issued there were manufactured of the Springfield over 100,000 at the Springfield armory, of the Remingtons over 35,000 at the same place, and at the Sharps' factory over 200,000 Sharps systems, while of the Ward-Burton there were only 1,300 manufactured in all, being the first lot ever turned out. It was, too, a new system, radically different from the others in manipulation, entirely strange to the troops, and was in their hands but a very short time, encountering, moreover, the conservatism of officers trained to the use of arms operated in a different manner. Taking these facts into consideration, we say, the report becomes extremely favorable, and presents a record that bears comparison with the best.

W. G. BURTON.

RECENT PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

PROFESSOR J. E. NOURSE, U. S. N., under orders from Rear-Admiral Sands, superintendent of our national observatory at Washington, has prepared a memoir of the founding and progress of that institution, which issues from the Government printing office in the form of a handsome quarto pamphlet. The national observatory originated in the earliest movement for fixing a first meridian in the United States. This was in 1810, when a memorial on the subject was presented to Congress with the purpose of relieving us from dependence on England in that respect. War, however, intervened, and it was not until 1821 that Congress afforded the first necessary legislation, and the observatory was not formally authorized until the session of 1841-2. Meanwhile officers in the Navy had diligently fostered the institution. Among the most prominent of these were Lieutenant L. M. Goldsborough (now rear-admiral), Commodore Charles Morris, Lieutenant Gillies, and Lieutenant Wilkes (now rear-admiral on the retired list). Once established, the observatory forthwith proceeded to vindicate the efforts made in its behalf by a consecutive series of valuable accomplishments in astronomical science, which gave it rank with the leading observatories of the world. The publications of the institution are numerous, and in such great demand that the supply of those which precede the volume for 1870 is nearly exhausted. When one reads the record of the results attributed to the Washington Observatory, he cannot fail to be struck with the apathy of the earlier Congresses with reference to it. We hope that Professor Nourse's valuable memoir will have the effect of saving our present Congress from any such injurious reflection upon its action.

Another quarto from the Government printing office contains reports on the construction of the piles of the Alexandria canal across the Potomac river, at Georgetown, furnished by Major William Turnbull, corps Topographical Engineers, engineer in charge. These reports were printed by Congress in 1838 and 1841, with accompanying drawings, but having been called for to such extent as to exhaust the supply, at the suggestion of Brigadier-General Humphreys, Chief of Engineers, such portions of them as are of special interest for the use of the Engineer Corps are now thus reprinted.

The professional papers of the Engineer Corps received an important addition in the Report on the North Sea Canal of Holland, and on the improvement of navigation from Rotterdam to the sea, made to the Chief of the Corps Engineers by Brevet-Major-General J. G. Barnard.

Ordnance Memoranda No. 14 contains a memoir by Major T. J. Treadwell, Ordnance Department, on metallic cartridges (regulation and experimental), as manufactured and tested at the Frankford Arsenal, Philadelphia. The volume, which sets out rather to record the results of experience in manufacture and experiment than to discuss the whole question involved, is copiously illustrated with figures and diagrams.

One of the most valuable of Senate documents (Ex-document No. 6) contains the reports of explorations and surveys to ascertain the practicability of a ship canal between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans by way of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, made by Captain Robert W. Shufeldt, U. S. N. The volume is bountifully illustrated.

Mr. R. B. Forbes's pamphlet on "The Hammock as a Life Preserver," has just now sad pertinency, when we are fresh in our mourning over the grievous calamity to the *Ville du Havre*. Taking for his text the statement of the report of Commander Bridge, at Malta, that "a well-lashed hammock, with bed and blanket, supported for a few minutes seven naked men; for a considerable time four men, and would, I believe, have continued to do so for an hour," Mr. Forbes proceeds to illustrate the value of the hammock for saving life, carrying out anchors, etc. His plan, in brief, is this: He would fill the naval hammock bed with cork shavings (or if hair

is retained attach thin slabs of cork to it), and stow each hammock in close-woven cotton canvas or water-proof bags, carefully tied and the ends fitted with buckles and lanyards ready to lash them to each other and to the spars and cross-ropes, so as to have at hand the material for the building at short notice of a life-preserving raft which can be constructed after due drilling in ten minutes and less. He has proved by careful experiment that the ordinary hammock, with hair bed, blanket, etc., placed in such a bag, will float twenty-four hours with one 32 pound shot attached to it, and when another is added will continue to float another day. The pamphlet is illustrated by plans for adapting the suggestion to the needs of vessels of our Navy of the classes of the *Wabash* and *Hartford*. In the plan we thus roughly have outlined, Mr. Forbes, who merits the thanks of all seamen for his thoughtful interest in their behalf, has specially in mind the crews of our naval vessels, but it can of course be applied likewise to passenger steamers, provided the necessary drill in its use is kept up. "While Captain Ericsson and Mr. Lay," says the writer, "are contesting the merits of their new inventions for destroying ships, it is our duty to contrive means for saving their crews. While we are constructing armor to make ships impervious to shot, and guns that will bore through anything, we must go hand in hand in this work of humanity and contrive means to save the men."

Commander Richard W. Meade, U. S. N., has done good service to his fellow officers and evinced the advantage of utilizing the leisure and monotony of a long cruise, by translating from the French during his cruise, among the islands of the south sea, M. de Crisenoy's little work, entitled "Our Naval School and Naval Officers" (Van Nostrand). This is in fine a glance at and discussion of the condition of the French navy prior to the late Franco-German war. Commander Meade offers the brochure to his professional brethren, thinking that it will prove of service to them as pointing out faults and peculiarities in the French system of naval education and government, which our own service in a measure shares. M. de Crisenoy writes with the vivacity of a Frenchman, and his work, thus skilfully transferred to our tongue, has about it a literary charm which makes it much more attractive reading than discussions of professional subjects usually offer. His conception of the dignity of the naval service, and of the duties devolving upon the naval officer, is of the loftiest kind, and its contemplation by our young sailors will have a good effect. The great danger is that the midshipman, passing from the Naval Academy to realize the instruction he has enjoyed, will, and does, in time of peace, soon learn to give his duties only a perfunctory performance, and become more engrossed with the gossip and bickerings of the ward-room than with the obligation of actually as well as literally advancing himself in his noble profession. In bringing before the Navy the work under consideration, Commander Meade therefore has done double service in stimulating thought and inquiry, and rousing sluggish ambitions. In the space allotted for this notice we cannot hope to go over the ground traversed by M. de Crisenoy, but it is perhaps enough to say that he writes under a high inspiration of the value of a naval service, its duties to its country, and its country's duties to it; and if his language is sometimes general, and the manner of his treatment of his subject removed from what we are accustomed to in such essays, they yet are such as to command attention and accomplish good results.

MITRAILLEUSES IN RUSSIA.

(From the London Broad Arrow.)

It is a well-known axiom that the full value of an invention can never be ascertained unless there exists a joint desire on the part of both the inventor and those for whom he works to perfect and develop to the utmost the incipient product of his brain and industry. The idea suggests itself, it is planned into crude shape, it assumes distinct proportions, it justifies the expectations of the inventor, and he generously presents it to the world. Then it is criticised, it is experimented upon, it is adopted; but during these last three stages what an interval of anguish, hope, doubt, revived confidence, despair, suspense, indignant feelings, and joy unbound lie between! Some such anxious moments, we may well suppose, filled up the gaps of time in the life of Dr. Gatling during the chrysalis period, so to speak, of his now famous invention. But from 1861, when the idea was conceived, until 1870, when the "Gatling" first made itself conspicuous on the battle-fields of Europe, after all a comparatively short trial of patience, and the inventor may well plume himself on attaining an unusually rapid success. As a matter of fact, the gun has been adopted by most European nations, our own included, but it is to Russia apparently that the honor is due of developing the principle and fixing the establishment of the Gatling as a distinct arm of service.

Fifty batteries of these mitrailluses have already been formed, and more are in progress of formation. The battery is composed of eight guns, and three batteries comprise a brigade. The guns are well bored, and the extra ammunition (which is interchangeable with that of the new Burden breech-loader) is carried in two-wheeled caissons which move rapidly over the field, drawn by three horses abreast.

The exact position to be taken up by mitrailluses in action has, however, not been decided upon, and it is to this point we now propose to direct attention in anticipation of the step likely to be taken by the Russian authorities to the same end. The question of the probable status of the Gatling gun was, indeed, discussed in the Royal United Service Institution early in the present year, but in a rather perfunctory manner, and the after-thoughts of Major-General Cameron Shute, which appear in the 16th volume of the "Proceedings," in the shape of a memorandum, do not, we fear, go far enough or deep enough into the merits of the case, for they are the preconceived notions of a cavalry officer anxious to monopolize the new arm. His alternatives as to whether

Gatlings should be attached to infantry or form a portion of the artillery service, are disposed of briefly in the negative, but we imagine that if an officer of the scientific branches were to take up the question of mitrailluses as General Gorloff seems to have done in Russia, there would be little doubt but that a distinct organization and separate action would be assigned to the Gatling. Certainly, as General Shute points out, this would entail the necessity of an establishment of officers, non-commissioned officers, men, and horses, scarcely, we think, "as costly as a complete battery of field-guns," for which, therefore, he would not substitute mitrailluses, whereas in the cavalry the required farriers, drivers, reserve of horses, etc., are already available; but the very duties he goes on to particularize as likely to be efficiently undergone by these guns in conjunction with cavalry, would, in our opinion, be best performed by Gatlings alone and untrammelled, namely, outpost duty, the defence of a gorge, defile, cross-road, or bridge, retreats through towns and villages, and attacks upon the massed columns of an enemy in the open.

He quite ignores, also, the advantage of Gatlings in other and not less important artillery uses, such as the defence of *casemates* or a breach, and for employment in advanced trenches or in field works, not to speak of its naval aptitude for doing good service on board ship and in boat operations; nor yet of one other duty for which the Gatling is peculiarly fitted, namely, the protection of a column moving by rail to its destination, since, if one gun were mounted on the engine and a couple on the tender, they would be ever ready to dispose of flank attacks. In fact, so many and so diverse are the opportunities for the right use of a multiple gun, that we do not hesitate to say that no one should be allowed to interfere with its action except the commander of the field force. But we have yet another abstract reason to offer why no subordinate commander of one arm should be allowed to control the movements of another, in suggesting the curious anomaly and professional paradox that jealousy is the bane of armies. Each arm decries and depreciates the value of the other, and deems itself the exponent of the nation's military prowess. Now, if a sort of hermaphrodite position be assigned to the Gatling, it will inevitably become the scapegoat of the services. Again, it is now fully accepted that tactics have changed with the introduction of such arms of precision as those we now treat of, which has been clearly expressed in the Wellington Prize Essay: "The distinct formal movements by which an army is made to assume throughout a similar or corresponding formation, are no longer possible in presence of modern weapons. It is absolutely essential, in order to diminish the disastrous effect of the present arm, that each small section of an army should be moved in such a manner as the local circumstances impose." Therefore, not only should the organization of the Gatling gun be distinct, as in Russia, but its duties and position should be separate and uncontrolled. The sub-division, battery, or brigade of Gatlings should manoeuvre under its own responsible officers, thus uniting that harmony of action and purpose which is ever conducive to discipline and indispensable to success. But, on the other hand, if this latitude of action be granted, so also should the education and tactical training of the officers selected for the duty reach the highest possible mark, and we fear that even it will fall far short of the practical experience and enlarged views only to be gained amid the carnage of the battle-field. For, as Lieutenant Maurice points out, "it by no means follows that the greater portion of drill should consist in large manoeuvres. Rigid formations will still be a most essential means of early training, and be also best adapted to most marches out of the immediate reach of the enemy. No one who has watched the effect of loose work upon ill-trained troops will doubt that as a means of discipline parade drill will be more, not less, essential than ever, little as it continues to be applicable to the purpose for which it was first designed."

We in England are generally behind-hand in coming to conclusions as regards novelties, but now that 400 guns of this class have been adopted into the Russian service it is high time for us to bestir ourselves and to establish that system of manoeuvres which will be best adopted to ensure the highest results from a weapon possessing peculiarities of a nature so varied and essential to the success of an army in a fortress, or in a field as the Gatling. Let us hope, therefore, that in the autumn exercises the Gatling gun may find its place as a distinct arm of the service.

"The official hand-book," says the *Army and Navy Gazette*, "of the 9-pounder Hale's rocket, 7-pounder steel gun, and 0.45-inch Gatling mitrailluse, which have lately been published by the Director of Artillery and Stores, at the War Office, for the service of officers and others about to take part in the various expeditions against the Ashantees on the Gold Coast, should be in the possession of all those who are likely to be concerned in practice with the above-mentioned descriptions of ordnance, and it is hardly necessary to inform our readers that they may be obtained upon application at the War Office. They contain a most useful compendium of instruction in all that it is requisite to know about these warlike stores. With regard to the 9-pounder rocket, a perfect description of the use of the instrument, and 'trough' or machine from which it is fired is given, together with range-tables and rules for the rocket detachment, elaborate drawings of the whole being included. The hand-book for the 7-pounder contains drawings of gun, carriage, ammunition, fuses, and ammunition boxes, also range-tables, rules for the gun detachment, and every possible information that could be required for instruction in the use of the mountain gun. That for the 0.45-inch Gatling is equally complete in every respect, with the exception of the engravings, none of which have yet been published for this weapon, but two excellent photographs of both gun and carriage have been supplied in lieu. All the parts of the complicated 'machine gun' are detailed and fully explained, they having been named officially, and each separately approved for introduction into the service."

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

NINTH INFANTRY.—The social annual reunion of Company D, Captain Bowland, which took place on the evening of the 16th inst., was a grand success. Prior to the festivities, the company, in full-dress uniform, gave an exhibition drill before a large audience. The company paraded fifty-two men, and gave so creditable an exhibition as to draw forth the applause of the spectators. The drill over, the company and its friends adjourned to the squad drill-room, where a table, stretching the entire length of the room, was spread with a bountiful supper, which, as usual, was followed by speeches, music, etc. Among those present were Lieutenant-Colonel Hitchcock, Captains Fuller, Pryer, Wood, Sister, Tallman, Cotman, and Lieutenants Hertz, Dennison, Millard, Adjutant Luckey, ex-Lieutenant Theriot, ex-Captain Davis, ex-Adjutant Allien, ex-Chaplain Phillips, and others, including an officer of the French Army. Captain Bowland, Lieutenant Fred. Valentine, and the committee in charge, did their utmost to make everything pleasant for the guests.

The drum corps ball (Drum-Major Hill), which took place on the evening of the 15th inst., was very successful numerically and socially. A portion of the Ninth band was present. The drill-room was very tastefully decorated. The drum-majors of the First and Second divisions, and all present, were unanimous in pronouncing the drum corps ball of the Ninth one of the most successful of its kind this season.

The remains of ex-Lieutenant-Colonel Ferris, of the Ninth regiment, who recently died in Paris, are expected to arrive shortly. The regiment, together with the Old Guard, propose parading as general escort. Lieutenant-Colonel Ferris was at one time captain of the City Guard, now Company C, of the Ninth, Captain Tallman, and from that position he was elected lieutenant-colonel in 1859, serving until within a few months of the outbreak of the rebellion. While connected with the regiment he endeared himself to all; and during the war he frequently sent on delicacies and other things for the comfort of the men. He had been an invalid for some years past, and made his residence in Paris some six years.

SEVENTH INFANTRY.—The Seventh's band, not to be outdone by the Twenty-second's and Seventy-first's, proposes to give a concert on this Saturday evening, December 27, at the regimental armory. General Grafulla has made no particular splash in this matter, neither has his band been "augmented" to sixty-five or one hundred performers; but he proposes, we understand, simply to give a promenade concert with the usual numbers of the band. We do not think he has made any particular effort to excel any other military band, but he guarantees to offer all who attend such music as has heretofore rendered Grafulla's Seventh regiment band famous in all parts of the country.

The charity ball to be given by this command at the Academy of Music January 6 will undoubtedly be the leading ball of the season. The members have found, it seems, but little difficulty in getting rid of their \$5 cards of admission, and in some instances single members have disposed of thirty or more tickets. This charitable undertaking of the regiment redounds to its credit, and the net proceeds seem likely to meet the most sanguine expectations of its projectors.

A manual of rifle practice prepared by a special committee of the officers of the regiment, of which Major George Moore Smith was chairman, has been issued for the use of the members. It contains some new suggestions particularly applicable to the military, in a condensed form, the little book containing but sixteen pages. It is issued for the special use of the regiment, and it is the purpose of Colonel Clark to "push things" this winter and spring in rifle practice.

TWENTY-EIGHTH BRIGADE.—The officers of the Twenty-eighth brigade, commanded by the late General Barto, have adopted the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, The sad intelligence of the seeming untimely death of Brigadier-General Henry D. Barto has come to us at an unexpected hour; and

Whereas, The removal of our esteemed companion and loved general in the early years of his usefulness as a soldier and citizen, is an event we deeply regret; therefore,

Resolved, That we deplore the loss of General Henry D. Barto, and feel that by his death a generous soldier has been separated from his command, and that the Twenty-eighth brigade has lost an able and efficient commander, a learned and judicious officer, endeared to all by his impartial and upright bearing.

Resolved, that as a citizen, General Barto was renowned for his integrity of character, and the uniform manly course that ever marked his business transactions.

Resolved, That we extend to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathies.

Resolved, That this preamble and resolutions be published, and a copy forwarded to the family.

EIGHTH INFANTRY.—The officers of this command, when they elected Captain Joseph P. Davenport, of Company C, as major, recently, gave good evidence that they had at last come to their senses, in one respect at least. A short time since they hunted the town and solicited a wealthy civilian to accept the position, and, upon his partial acquiescence, elected him as major of the regiment. This gentleman, however, fortunately it seems for the reputation of the regiment as a military organization, failed to report or qualify, so they at last were compelled to fall back and do what

they should have done in the first instance—elect one of their own officers. There are instances when an interchange of officers between different commands works well, but under most circumstances it is far preferable to choose from your own material. Major-elect Davenport is highly esteemed in the regiment, and has all along been the favorite for this position. We congratulate him on his deserved promotion, and the regiment on securing an officer who will add to the lustre of its field.

Colonel Scott is working smoothly and quietly with his command, which is now in as good condition as in its palmy days, which is saying not a little for his administration. He, however, we regret to learn, contemplates resignation, and is only waiting to throw his mantle on shoulders as broad and firm. The Eighth can ill afford to go "scot-free," nor do we think it will just yet. No, no, Colonel, you can't slip away just yet. We know it is hard work, but see the honor, glory, etc., etc., etc.!

TWENTY-SECOND INFANTRY.—On the evening of the 22d the officers of this command re-elected ex-Lieutenant-Colonel John Camp to his old position in the regiment. We are pleased as well as surprised at this, for instances of this kind are rare, and we never thought our old friend "Colonel John" could be persuaded to return to the regiment, unless, perhaps, as its commander. We have it! It is the advent of Gilmore and that big band, whose charming music awaked the martial spirit in his breast, and led him to consent to again take the field. But seriously, if the officers of the regiment were not ambitious, as it seems they were not, they could not have done better than to act as they did. Lieutenant-Colonel Camp always ranked among the favorites of the regiment, and as an officer is capable, painstaking, and in every way qualified for a position in the field. He is no stranger to the regiment, and his re-election is well deserved. The Twenty-second appreciates his services, in fact so well that it is anxious for him to try again.

The band Saturday evening concerts have become so popular that it has been determined to continue them until further notice. The band by this means gets good practice, and its beneficial results are to be seen at every concert. Gilmore's Twenty-second Regiment Band is making an excellent reputation for itself all over the country, and, best of all, its organization has been the means of raising the standard of military music, giving new life to leaders, and fairly given us what we never had before—a real military band.

The regimental reception at the Academy of Music, January 12, gains in favor, and will undoubtedly be one of the most select gatherings of the season. The character of this ball, and the plan of its management places it foremost among public entertainments.

INSTRUCTION IN RIFLE PRACTICE.—Adjutant-General Rathbone has from the first taken hold in earnest of the subject of rifle practice, and, as will be seen by the order which follows, is resolved that every National Guardsman "shall do his duty" in this matter. If the militia of the State of New York does not lead the country in that most important qualification of the soldier—the ability to shoot—it will clearly not be the fault of the Adjutant-General. The season a "feudmoor next year promises to be a lively one, and the regimental and company commanders, for their own credit and the credit of their several commands, should, in accordance with the orders of General Rathbone, direct themselves zealously to drilling their men in the use of their breech-loaders during the present winter.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS STATE OF NEW YORK, }
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, ALBANY, Dec. 16, 1873 }
General Orders No. 30.

The advantages of a thorough system of instruction in the principles of rifle practice are so well established, that it is deemed proper to call the special attention of commanding officers of the National Guard throughout the State to the subject, and direct a course of instruction therein during the winter months. It is therefore ordered:

I. That regimental and company commanders of infantry, and of cavalry armed with carbines, at once familiarize themselves with the system of instruction prescribed in "Wingate's Manual," and from and after the first day of January next, make the sighting, position, and aiming drill a part of the weekly drill of their companies. Regimental commanders will assemble their field and company officers at least twice in each of the months of January and February next for the study and practice of Articles 1-6 of the Manual referred to. When the progress made by the men in sighting, position, and aiming drill warrants it, they will be instructed in candle practice. During the month of March twenty rounds per man will be expended in this practice. Requisitions for shells charged with a cap of fulminate only, for candle practice, may be made during the month of February.

On the first of April next a detailed report, in duplicate, will be made by each company commander, one copy forwarded to these headquarters, and the other retained at regimental headquarters, showing, First, The number of target practice drills held during the previous three months, in compliance with this order. Second, A roster of the company, showing the members present and absent at each drill. Third, The score in detail made by the company in the use of the twenty rounds during the month of March.

II. In regimental and brigade districts where rifle ranges have been established, as well as to those organizations within a reasonable distance from Creedmoor Range, a supply of ball cartridges for target practice will be furnished where the reports show sufficient proficiency in sighting, position, and aiming drill, and candle practice to warrant the issue.

III. Division and brigade commanders should familiarize themselves with the principles and formulae of rifle practice, and, so far as lies in their power, contribute towards the attainment of a high order of marksmanship among the Na-

tional Guard of the State. Regimental and company officers will supervise the instruction of companies and squads within their respective commands, and by their example encourage their subordinates to become proficient in the use of the rifle.

IV. Commandants of companies will see that all empty shells are carefully collected and preserved for reloading, turning them into the Chief of Ordnance in such quantities and at such times as he may direct.

V. The practice prevailing to a great extent in the National Guard of expending annually a large amount of ammunition on what are commonly known as "target excursions," should be discouraged by all who have the interest of the National Guard at heart, as being perfectly valueless as a means of imparting instruction in the use of the rifle, and subversive of good order and military discipline. The use of cartridges issued by the State on any such occasion is therefore strictly prohibited.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

JOHN F. RATHBONE, Adjutant-General.

OFFICIAL:

J. B. STONEHOUSE, Assistant Adjutant-General.

WHAT IS DISCIPLINE?—In a recent article on discipline in the National Guard we invited discussion as to the best methods of raising its standard, and in reply thereto we have received the following from a correspondent who tells, we are sorry to say, not from our own city or State, but from Philadelphia, Pa. The writer says:

In your article "Discipline in the National Guard," in your issue of December 6, the question is asked, "What is discipline?" As a number of answers are quoted, and an invitation is there extended to discuss the subject in your columns, I avail myself of the courtesy, and although the benefit that may eventuate from a multitude of counsellors in this case be but as a rivulet in a valley where an Amazon might flow, we will bear in mind that even the drippings of the rock come grateful to lips parched with thirst.

For the reply "Discipline is the life of an army," I would substitute, discipline gives vitality to an army, it being a means to accomplish an end. "The difference between a good army and a poor army, is good or bad discipline"—this is rather vague. "The merging of many wills in one"—this is despotism rather than discipline. "The habit of implicit obedience under any and all circumstances"—again despotism, and not discipline, as shown in the next answer quoted, to wit: "Discipline turned blunder into an act of heroism at Balaklava"—never! and "although all the world wondered," that never removed the "blunder." (Impudence and ignorance combine to send hundreds of brave men to useless slaughter, and this to be called discipline! Heaven save the mark.)

It is somewhat singular that so many eminent writers on the military art and science fail to give us a definition of What is discipline?" Even the world-renowned Joanni does not define it (if any one knows to the contrary it is hoped that he will state where we may find it). In setting forth the essential conditions that concur in bringing an army to perfection, he arranges them thus: "To have a good system of recruiting; a good formation; a system of well organized reserves; troops and officers well instructed in the manoeuvres, and in the interior and field service; a discipline strict, without being humiliating; a system of recompence and emulation well combined," etc.

A discipline strict, without being humiliating! What shall this be? Perhaps if we step outside of the military sphere we may find there a satisfactory solution, as the term discipline is common to other organizations than those known as military organizations. If we turn to "Worcester," we find among other definitions there given, that discipline is defined as education, instruction, training: anything taught, as art, science, method, government, control; peculiar mode of life, in accordance with the rules of some fraternity or society, and the application in a Christian church of those rules and principles which regard the purity, order, and the efficiency and peace of its members. In the last definition we have one, if not the very best of answers, certainly one that must command our admiration—the application of the principles that regard the purity, the order, and the efficiency of its members. Where, in military life, is the station where this does not apply with boundless force?

It may here be asked, Where is the heroism in an officer, who, entrusted with the lives of brave men, cannot rise above the annoyances of manner of a youthful staff officer who brings an order—who does not hesitate to lead his command "into the jaws of hell" rather than assume a moral and official responsibility? Surely such an officer must have but a limited conception of the "responsibilities in war;" a limited conception of the part that he is called on to act in the grand drama of military discipline! Where, in that case, was the "application of those principles that regard the efficiency of the several parts of an army?" "Bien magnifique, mais pas la guerre," was said of it by one who viewed it from a military standpoint. It may be permitted here to refer to the fact that in the Army of the Potomac we had several officers who set us a more noble example of what is discipline, and what is heroism—men of lofty souls, who never shrank a moment from risking degradation and an ignominious fate, rather than lead their commands to useless slaughter; and they found their country prompt to sustain them.

But it must not be misunderstood, what is here said of the responsibilities—that must of necessity rest upon officers of high rank, who execute orders out of sight of those by whom the orders have been issued. As we descend in rank, lower and lower, so does the limited discretion even more rapidly lessen, until we arrive at the soldier on post, who is allowed no discretion at all, but must adhere rigidly to the instructions imparted to him by his corporal; and it must not be lost sight of that, while it is unlawful to obey an illegal order, he who refuses or neglects to obey an order received from a superior officer does so at his peril. To justify disobedience or neglect of such an order it must be manifestly illegal; must be of such a nature that the execution of it will work irreparable injury, and even then the injury must be of no trivial character. If the order is of a doubtful legality, it must be obeyed; and rebels, if any be due, must be sought afterwards. Any other rule than this, and all authority would be at an end, and with it an end to the efficiency of the army.

And now what is the condition of the National Guard to-day? What attention is given to the application of those principles and rules that regard the order, purity, and efficiency of its members? This applied to the privates in the ranks, and to officers of the highest grades. The attempt to smother up and to stifle investigation ordered to be made into the misconduct of its members who have brought dis-

grace upon its name, gives us a painful reply. Not only in New York, but in adjoining States, have men who have given their best efforts in aid of elevating the character of the National Guard been visited with indignities put upon them by those who should have given every moral and official support.

Article I of our Army Regulations defines discipline to be—
1. All inferiors are to obey strictly, and to execute with sincerity and good faith, the lawful orders of the superiors appointed over them.

2. Military authority is to be exercised with firmness, but with kindness and justice to inferiors. Punishments shall be strictly conformable to law.

3. Superior of every grade are forbidden to injure those under them by tyrannical conduct or abusive language.

Here we have imposed, as the law for the Army, the obligation to make application of those principles and rules that regard the order, the purity, and the peace of its members, that efficiency may result. Imposed upon all alike, from the Commander-in-Chief to the youngest recruit, all are admonished to heed, that their duty be discharged in a manner that will tend to the efficiency of the whole.

Let us hope that we have had the last of such disgraceful scenes as have been enacted in the National Guard within the year now rapidly drawing to a close, and within States where, after so much laborious efforts, an interest has at last been awakened in its behalf, lest the citizens who now aid in bearing a part of the expenses have ground to doubt whether the parade of the National Guard, even though it be called a magnificent display—yet wanting discipline—be not, after all, like the noted “charge,” a misdirected expenditure of resources garnered with so much care and toil and expense, and wanting the application of those principles and rules that regard order, purity, and efficiency—he a shadow rather than a substance.

F. C.

We welcome our correspondent with a satisfaction that would be greatly increased were it not that his letter is alone. From all the “crack” corps of our own city not a word of reply to our invitation has come as yet, leaving it to be inferred that our city militiamen are still comfortable in the fond belief that they have discipline in their midst, when every one outside their ranks sees plainly that the contrary is the case. The most indignant disclaimers would be better than this leaden apathy on a subject so vital as discipline. In the main, we agree with F. C. in his opinions; and where we differ, are satisfied that it is from misunderstanding each other. For instance, in this Balaklava business, our friend seems to miss our point—that what was a blunder in the officer was turned into a success by the heroism of the men, who obeyed orders and took the battery they were sent to take, through force of discipline. If F. C. will examine the conflicting accounts in Kinglake’s “Crimes” as carefully as we have, he will see that the “blunder” was nothing less than Lord Lucan’s disobedience, the heroism that of the men who were more obedient than their leader, the martyr poor Nolan, purposely misunderstood by a general who was a born critic of superior orders (v. Kinglake, Vol. II., chapter on Balaklava).

On one point we disagree with F. C., as to the record of those generals who took the responsibility of disobeying orders in the Army of the Potomac. At the beginning of the war we had plenty such. Whether they are examples to hold up for imitation is determined by their inglorious fall for that very fault. As a rule, our troops never beat the enemy till they learned to obey orders, and in exact proportion as our discipline improved, our efforts were successful. F. C. is shocked at the idea of discipline being a despotism. In fact, the nearer it approaches despotism, the more perfect is it. A gentle and merciful despotism it should be, like that of a father over children, a despotism willingly endured from its very nature; but till we face the word obedience, with all its consequences, as the first necessity of discipline, we have not gone a step on the true road.

THE SEVENTY-FIRST'S BAND CONCERT.—On the evening of December 18 the band of this regiment, under the direction of Bandmaster Felix I. Eben, gave a concert at the Academy of Music. The concert was given under the auspices of the regiment, and the united efforts of its members, led by Col. Vose, and aided by the excellent reputation of the band and its leader, succeeded in drawing to the Academy a large and appreciative audience. The arrangements for the concert were prepared with considerable skill, and the entertainment passed off exceedingly satisfactory, the band at times awakening more than the usual applause given to concerts of this character. Strictly speaking, there is nothing particularly attractive in military band concerts when offered on a basis similar to those of the ordinary kind. There is a certain monotony about the continuous sounds of brass instruments, which becomes doubly so when one perchance is forced to listen to these sounds for two or more hours. Moreover these concerts, when not relieved by the customary time-whiling promenade, becomes tedious unless orchestral instruments or the human voice comes to the rescue.

But this change would affect the military character of the concert, for it could not then be strictly termed a military band concert. Yet Mr. Eben did in one instance, we observed, introduce an orchestral accompaniment at this concert; but otherwise he confined his programme to band and soloists on brass and reed instruments. The band occupied a position on the Academy stage, and when the curtain rose presented a very attractive appearance with its leader in position, the drum corps in the rear, and the drum-major (Jinks), in scarlet and bearskin, baton in hand, to the right in advance. At the command MARCH, the band advanced in good style about two paces, its leader acknowledged the merited applause of the audience, mounted the rostrum, moved his baton, and the band struck up the Seventy-first Quickstep, by Eben, the drum corps beating in unison. This

was exceedingly well rendered, but in this, as well as some of the subsequent compositions, the music was too loud for indoors. The band and drum corps were in perfect time, and the quickstep called forth all the musical and military enthusiasm of the audience. The overture “Wild Pranks” was very well rendered, but the selection “Ernani,” with solos for the clarinet and baritone, was by far the gem of the whole programme. The cornet duet “Cheerfulness,” by Messrs. Lederhause and Hartman, with orchestra accompaniment, was exceedingly well given, and called forth an encore. Instead of “Cheerfulness,” however, Mr. Eben gave us *dreadness* on the trombone. For the ordinary ear the trombone, taken alone, is not a particularly pleasant sounding instrument, and when played as a quartette the change is not much more musical. The quartette was, however, very well done, but in the absence of Philharmonic critics it was not noticed. Bagatelle—“Orpheus” closed the first part of the programme. This lively Offenbach composition seemed to suit the taste of the audience better than any selection yet offered, as was indicated by their head and foot movements, and the applause which greeted its termination. Colonel Vose, at the conclusion of part one, advanced to the foot-lights and announced that, at the request of Major-General Hancock, the band would repeat the Seventy-first Quickstep, which it did in good style, although a little hurried. The name of General Hancock awoke the enthusiasm of the audience, who repeated his name until the commander of the Military Division of the Atlantic, acknowledged the compliment from the proscenium box. “Grand Camp Overture” opened part second, which was followed by “Song without Words” for brass instruments. The first was most excellent, and the latter was not only brassy but short and sweet. Pot-pourri—“Huguenots”—band with solos for cornet and euphonion, was the best selections of part second. The flute solo “Caprice de Concert,” with orchestra accompaniment by Mr. Eben, was only fair, and should have been introduced in the first part, as Mr. Eben in playing gave evidence of being too tired and nervous to do full justice as a flutist. The American Grand March very appropriately concluded the performance. The Seventy-first has an excellent band and Mr. Eben has taken great care in its composition. It, however, is by no means perfect, as this concert gave good evidence. It is almost impossible to gather, in a few weeks, musicians who are perfect enough to make any great effect in a band concert. More time is required for practice, and as our band musicians are at present constituted it takes long and continuous practice to reach the much desired perfection in time and harmony. A military band labors under far greater difficulties in giving a concert like this, than when parading at the head of a regiment. It has fewer chances of covering defects and lays itself open to a more critical examination. Bandmaster Eben is an undoubted musician, but his nervous temperament interferes greatly with his leadership. His actions on the stage, and particularly regarding a desire to remove a temporary platform, provoked the risibilities of the audience and showed his peculiarly nervous disposition. He, however, is an intelligent musician and has the ability to make the American Guard Band take a leading position among the military bands of the country.

VARIOUS ITEMS.

— We call the attention of our readers to the interesting discussion of discipline by a correspondent in the leading article in this department of the JOURNAL. We invite further discussion on this or any other subject which tends to elevate the standard of the National Guard.

— On the 15th inst. a “Veteran Association” was formed from the members of the Brooklyn Light Guard (1835), now Company A, Thirteenth regiment. This company prides itself on its new and well-furnished headquarters in Court street, and a warm interest is now manifested by active and veteran members and also by its captain (Thos. K. McGrath). Next season the company expects to lead the van in numbers.

— The Binghamton Daily Republican has the following on the One Hundred and Third Infantry: “Colonel E. J. Loomis, of the One Hundred and Third regiment guard, and sergeant-at-Arms at the Senate, has tendered the National Government the services of himself and regiment in case of war with Spain. This occurred in Norwich on Saturday, November 29. When the news reached Admiral Polk, at Washington, he formally ‘caved,’ and signed Fish’s protocol with a murmur. Such are the results of a little timely ‘spunk.’”

— THAT portion of the National Guard coming within the jurisdiction of Broome county is not very large, yet proceedings have recently been instituted in the Supreme Court by writ of mandamus against the Board of Supervisors of that county for the necessary appropriation for the armories, etc., of the various commands located in that county. The suit is still pending, and the liberal-minded supervisors have voted to fight the militia on this or any other line. This is only another instance of the kindly feelings of patriotic office-holders toward the National Guard.

— The Supervisors of New York wish to wipe out some of the organizations of the First division, and have so informed the commander-in-chief, who has promised to give the matter his earnest attention. Some people may deem this action of the Supervisors as impudent, particularly some of the

weak commands of the division. We, however, concur with the Supervisors, and believe the only means of strengthening the First division is to reduce the number of organizations.

— THE twenty-third annual ball of Company I, Twenty-eighth Infantry, Captain William Heerd, Jr., will take place at Baumgarten’s Hall, Brooklyn, E. D., December 31.

— The Centre Market armory is becoming an eye-sore to the public. Why don’t the Committee on Armories of the Board of Supervisors take steps to finish the armory and end the constant discussion relative thereto at every meeting of the Board?

— ONE of the regimental commanders of the Third brigade, First Division, will be surprised \$1,500 worth on Saturday evening, December 27, by the rank and file of his regiment. It will be all in silver, too.

— The recent article in the JOURNAL on the dilapidated condition of the White street city arsenal has been the means of reviving the discussion as to its repair. The mayor has sent a communication to the Board of Supervisors, accompanied by a report from Colonel Porter, the First division’s detailed chief of artillery, asking that the building be made tenable. The matter was referred to the Military Committee.

— The controversy and investigation regarding Nilson Hall is about to be revived. The Sixth regiment, which had begun to think that possession was really nine points of the law, has been ordered to vacate its armory and go where it was originally ordered—Glass Hall. Glass Hall as an armory seems absurd, and we question whether the regiment will obey the mandate of the Supervisors. We trust the Sixth is not ordered to Glass Hall on any personal grounds.

— The Second brigade, it strikes us, under its present administration, seems likely soon to become perfectly demoralized. What with the trouble of the Eleventh and its commander, the squabble of this latter command and the Ninety-sixth over Centre Market armory, and the fight of the Sixth for Nilson Hall, it seems that there must be a screw loose somewhere. The brigade commander does not appear to give all the satisfaction necessary, and it is about time these were in some way settled.

— COLONEL H. G. Shaw, formerly of the Fourth regiment of New Jersey National Guard, and one of the originators of systematic rifle practice in this vicinity, is rapidly rising in his journalistic profession on the Pacific slope. Colonel Shaw some two years since left the editorial staff of the New York *Sun* to assume a position on the staff of the San Francisco *Chronicle*. He has now retired from that paper, and purchased an interest in the Santa Cruz *Sentinel*, which will give him a wider scope for his professional knowledge. Santa Cruz, if not like Auburn, the “loveliest village of the Plain,” is reported as the prettiest town of California, and is located about sixty miles south from San Francisco. If the past record of Colonel Shaw may be taken as a criterion, we expect soon to see the columns of the *Sentinel* team with military, and rifle practice, in addition to its other readable matter.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A SUBSCRIBER.—The Adjutant-General of the Army can alone answer your question.

A. E. D.—By joint resolution of Congress of May 4, 1870, the Secretary of War can issue small arms to colleges whose officers are detailed as professors.

NELSON, Detroit.—The courts of New York have not decided the status of a volunteer deserter surrendering under the President’s proclamation, but the Court of Claims and U. S. Supreme Court have.

COMPANY D, Austin.—To obtain the additional pay for re-enlistment under the act of August 4, 1864, the continuous service may have been either in the Regular Army or Marine Corps, which for this purpose are considered together.

COMPANY A, SECOND INFANTRY.—After serving your present enlistment, and receiving a good discharge, there is nothing to prevent your becoming a first class private in the Engineer Battalion, provided you have the ordinary acquirements of a common-school education.

POST CONCHO, Texas.—There is no such act as you write of before Congress. The act of March 11, 1864, section 2, provides fully for an ambulance corps in time of war, by detail, after an examination by a board of medical officers.

SUBSCRIBER.—If you have lost your naturalization papers, and recollect which court of record in New York city conferred citizenship upon you, you can, by applying to the clerk of that court, obtain a certificate, under seal, of the fact of citizenship having been granted. At the same time you will have to pay the usual fees for such service.

HANCOCK, Omaha.—Your inquiry is not sufficiently definite as to what you desire to know for a categorical answer. When the old pattern of clothing is issued then G. O. 75, A. G. O., of 1871, will govern, but when the new pattern is issued then the present stated prices will govern.

SIGNAL SERVICE, Buffalo.—You will have to apply to the Adjutant-General of the Army for the desired information. The Secretary of War decided, May 15, 1872, that soldiers employed as clerks at post headquarters, regimental clerks, and clerks to post quartermasters and to assistant commissaries, shall not receive the extra duty pay.

THOMPSON, Steubenville.—A deserter surrendering himself under the President’s orders of October 10, before January 1, will escape all punishment for that crime. If, however, he was also guilty of theft or other offence, he will, after surrender, have to stand his trial by General Court-martial for such offence, but not for the desertion.

INQUIRER.—If an officer tenders his resignation to the President, and the latter accepts it, after the officer has been tried by General Court-martial and sentenced to be dismissed, but before promulgation of sentence, such acceptance has been held by the Attorney-General to be a constructive pardon (4 “Opinions Atty.-Gen.”, 8, and 6 “Opinions”, 125). Even if the officer is re-appointed the proceedings would not be published.

ARTILLERY, Hampton.—Having, after desertion, voluntarily returned, been tried, found guilty and sentence remitted, and then served your full enlistment and received an honorable discharge, you were restored to a status of honor, and under the rulings of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Second Comptroller is bound to take notice of it in a case in his competency. Should he refuse to be governed by the decision of that tribunal in like cases, he would justly be chargeable with an illegal and unwarrantable assertion of authority.

DURACQUA, Iowa.—General Orders No. 325, War Department, Adjutant-General’s Office, Washington, of September 28, 1863, amended paragraph 156 of the Regulations by providing that a reward of thirty dollars will be paid for the apprehension and delivery of a deserter to an officer of the Army at the most convenient post or recruiting station. Whoever actually arrests and delivers the deserter to the officer is entitled to receive the certificate and reward, because he takes the risk and responsibility. If another helps him merely by giving the needed information, it is a private matter between individuals as to what share shall be received by the informant from the person actually making the arrest.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

The Moscow Gazette states that, by order of the Russian War Office, strong fortifications will be erected at the mouth of the Bug in the Black Sea and in the neighborhood of Oshakoff.

THE Russian Minister of War has ordered a considerable enlargement of the fortifications at Warsaw, which place it is proposed to convert into a strong fortress of the first order. The building is to be begun early in spring.

FIVE new vessels are to be added to the German Navy next year—the three armored frigates *Kaiser*, *Deutschland*, and *Borussia*, the armored corvette *Hansa*, and the unarmored corvette *Louise*. The iron-clad fleet will consist of six frigates—three of the first-class, and one corvette—mounting in all eighty-six guns, twelve of which are 450 pounds, and twenty-six 600 pounds. Provision will be made for 6,100 seamen and officers.

The Invalide Russe, of Dec. 3, announces that the Turcooman tribe of Tekinzena lately crossed the Amoo Daria and plundered two caravans, taking a sick Russian soldier prisoner. Three hundred Cossacks were consequently despatched on Sept. 24, from Fort Petrovsk, and on the 26th, after a forced march of 200 versts, they overtook the Tekinzena and completely annihilated them, only eight of the tribe succeeding in re-crossing the Amoo Daria.

The Army and Navy Gazette says: "As a 'sign of the times,' it may be mentioned that the Chinese are beginning to find the maintaining of war vessels rather expensive, so their last addition, built at their arsenal at Foo-chow, is to be sold to a native trading company. The Chinese are not the only people in the world who will sooner or later discover that without a well-supplied exchequer it will be impossible to keep up a powerful navy."

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Trieste, in touching incidentally upon the Austrian-Hungarian north-pole expedition under the supervision of Messrs. Weiprecht and Peyer, says that those bold seamen are now entirely cut off from all communication, the last news received from them being dated August 16, 1873, when the expedition met Captain Wilezeks at Cape Nassau, near Nova Zembla. Weiprecht and Peyer hoped to reach Cape Tscheljuskin in September, and then at a point east from this to take up their first winter quarters. The unsuccessful results of the American and Swedish expeditions have given rise to many fears for this one but hope must not be abandoned until 1875, the time set for its return.

PRINCE Eugene of Leuchtenberg, some time since having obtained permission of the Emperor of Russia, was enrolled a Cossack of Orenburg. A dinner was given to the Prince by the town, and his highness gave an entertainment on the next day to 200 of the principal residents. The day after, the Prince, on his departure, was escorted by a Cossack escort, half a dozen of whom consisted of pupils of the military school. The Prince had scarcely got outside the town when his escort was surrounded by an ambush of Cossacks, who had returned from Khiva on the previous evening, and had planned this surprise to display their skill in dropping behind their horses and firing from over the saddle or under the body of the animal. Occasionally they would gallop ahead, and dismounting make the horses lie down so as to form a rampart from behind which they presented their weapons. These manœuvres were carried on for several versts, and at Teheranatchie, the Prince reviewed a body of young Cossacks, who sat well and bore themselves with a martial air, though the eldest was but seven years of age.

The Army and Navy Gazette understands that a limited number of 24-pounder War Hale's rockets, of an entirely new construction and of a most terribly formidable character, are at present in course of manufacture, for experimental purposes, and should the result be favorable manufacture on a considerable scale of the modified pattern will commence forthwith. It is proposed to convert the head into an elongated specimen of carcass shell filled with composition capable of ignition by percussion. Such a projectile would have the most disastrous effects when fired amongst shipping or houses, as it is perfectly impossible to extinguish the flames of a carcass shell when once ignited, even by total immersing in water for several minutes, or by burying them in a tamping of earth or sand. Immediately upon impact, flames belch from several vents or oriaces, and to do so until the composition is exhausted, which time varies according to the calibre, the 13 inch mortar carcass shell burning for twelve minutes, and that of the 6-pounder gun about three minutes.

REFERRING to the returns prepared and laid before the House of Commons, showing the value of purchase commissions at the date of the abolition of purchase to be, in round figures, £12,500,000, the *Army and Navy Gazette* says: "This immense sum had been paid for promotion, and the effect of its expenditure was to give the country officers in the higher grades who were yet in the prime of life. Under the new system, they must be content to wait for advancement far longer than in past time. And they may fairly be pardoned if they ask themselves whether, after all, the prospect of spending upwards of a quarter of a century in a subaltern's rank, and on a subaltern's pay, is really a matter for much congratulation. Even to attain this slow rate of advancement, the half-pay list will be filled to overflowing with lieutenant-colonels and majors in enforced retirement, and the burden on the estimates for non-effective services will weigh heavily on future Chancellors of the Exchequer."

The Canadian Volunteer Review copies from the JOURNAL a paragraph on the subject of sharp-shooting, adding the comment which follows: "The true issue of our great rifle contest is not to train sharpshooters, but to make the soldier familiar with his weapon—to

perfect him in the use of it, and to give him steadiness and confidence in its use. Contests in which the use of the military weapon alone would be permitted, should be encouraged; and therefore it is that our company and battalion matches have such a beneficial and peculiar value. The only use for sharpshooters would be as skirmishers, and therefore the formation that will employ the old flank companies, organized from the best shots in each battalion, should be adopted as a necessity. In order to disable artillery, prevent an advance in front, defend an important position, or drive away cavalry, the fire of the sharpshooters would be invaluable; but, as shown in this extract, it will never win a fight, and while it may contribute largely thereto, by covering the advance of the corps to which it belongs, it is a force that any skilful officer will use with extreme caution, both from certain loss it must encounter, and the difficulty of withdrawing it, if over-matched. The direction in which a reformation of minor tactics is necessary is undoubtedly in the employment of skirmishers."

DURING the prevalence of the wet and foggy state of the atmosphere since the arrival of the *Rupert* turretship, iron-clad ram, at Portsmouth, says *Broad Arrow* of Dec. 6, the attention of the authorities and others has been drawn to the following practical facts: That while the seamen's decks, roofing, and sides, armor-plating, and other parts of the *Rupert* have been covered with streams of water from the condensed atmosphere, to the great detriment of health, and discomfort of the officers and seamen, the similar parts on board the *Devastation*, comprising the same class of work in construction, have maintained a perfectly dry condition, without any signs of condensation or dampness on their surfaces. Upon investigation being made as to the cause of this great difference, it has been found conclusively due to the fact that the surface of the iron work of the *Devastation* is coated with Welch's patent process, and an non-conducting cork faced compositions, while those of the *Rupert* are coated with the ordinary paint.

THE English service has been disturbed of late by quite a tempest in a teapot, due to the arrest, incarceration in the station house, and arraignment before a magistrate on the charge of being drunk and disorderly, of several officers of the First Life Guards, including the officer commanding these household troops, Colonel Fraser, "who is," as *Broad Arrow* says, "ex-officio the pattern of everything that is both militarily and socially correct." Of the cause of the difficulty the same journal says: The colonel of the First Life Guards, accompanied by several of the junior officers of the regiment, was at the Argyll Rooms. Colonel Fraser in his statement, which the magistrate very properly unhesitatingly accepted as true, although it was not made on oath, himself described the Argyll Rooms as "a place to which he had not been for several years," and no doubt the visit was one of mere wantonness made for the lack of something better, or something worse, to do. Unfortunately, however, the exceptional visit led to exceptional results, and hence the scandal (if the term is not too hard a one) which has ensued. Guardsmen, although they have not taken the pledge to follow implicitly in the footsteps of the bishops, are not *habitués* of dancing saloons, frequented as much by drapers' apprentices as by their betters, and they do not deserve the unpleasant notoriety which the occurrence of last week has imposed upon them. A very venial fault has been very severely punished, and Colonel Fraser and his officers have our sympathy.

ON the 9th ult., King William accepted the long applied for resignation of Marshal von Roon, minister of war of Prussia. General Field Marshal the Count von Roon was born on the 30th of April, 1803, and is therefore 70 years of age. Educated in the Cadet Corps at Culm and Berlin, he entered the army January 9, 1821, as an officer, and began, after having attended the Allgemeine Kriegsschule at Berlin, his labors as preceptor in the Cadet Corps, in Berlin, 1828. At this time, after a careful and thorough study of geography, under the direction of Professor Karl Ritter, he published his well-known "Lehrbuch der Erdkunde," as well as the "Anfangsgründe der Erd-Völker und Staaten-kunde," which latter passed through nearly twelve editions. In 1844, he was entrusted with the military education of Prince Friedrich Carl, and accompanied the Prince when he entered the University at Bonn, and subsequently on his travels. Four years later he returned to active service, was made chief of the general staff of the Eighth Army Corps in 1848, and in this capacity served in the campaign in Baden, 1849. In 1859, he was a lieutenant-general and commander of the Fourteenth Division, and upon the resignation of the Minister of War v. Bonin was appointed his successor by King William, then prince-regent. As a mark of esteem for the services he rendered in reorganizing the Prussian army, on the day of entry of the victorious troops in Berlin, June 16, 1871, von Roon, who since 1866 had been a general in the infantry service, was made a count. The King on accepting his resignation informed von Roon that his name was to remain on the list of active field-marshals, and thus he was also to retain his commission as chief of the Thirty-third fusilier-regiment, and was to be permitted to wear the decorations of the active service. As a special mark of affection King William presented the ex-war minister with his bust in marble.

"FOR nearly six months," says the *Army and Navy Gazette*, "the Committee on Explosives, under the supervision of Brigadier General Sir John Adye, the Director of Artillery and Stores, have been occupied in prosecuting a series of experiments with 16-pounder and 9-inch bridged common shells, for the purpose of ascertaining whether gun-cotton, either wholly or in part, as an explosive agent, may not be employed in filling shells for garrison, naval, and field artillery. With this object in view, a number of the above descriptions of projectiles, containing respectively either water and a little gun-cotton, gun-cotton alone, or in the third instance cotton pulp alone, have been exploded by the following means, in the Plumstead marshes. Beneath the ordinary per-

cussion fuze and attached to it within the shell is a detonator and strong brass primer packed tightly with gun-cotton. The projectile after being fired from the gun ignites the percussion fuse upon impact; this flashes a flame to the detonator, which in its turn detonates the gun-cotton primer with great violence, causing a most intense shattering action to be set up amongst the other contents of the shell. This action, in the case of the water-filled shells with the sprinkling of gun-cotton, was found to be effective, and the projectiles themselves were broken into extremely small fragments, the forces generated being, in all probability, due to the incompressible and inelastic nature of the contained water when the detonating influence was brought to bear upon it. But, as might have been anticipated, the effect was too local and the scatter of the fragments too much confined. Similar effects, only in a modified degree, were obtained, we understand, with the shells filled with gun-cotton only, with precisely the same results as to the localizing tendency of the explosion. But in the instance of those shells which were filled with cotton-pulp, the action of the detonating influence varied considerably from that observed in the shells charged with gun-cotton and water—the elastic nature of the material employed yielding to the gas-waves generated by detonation, thus permitting their forces to be fully developed, but, at the same time, by its own combustion assisting the effect produced in the explosion of the shell. These last mentioned results have been deemed so favorable to the means employed that it has been decided to organize further experiments with the shells filled with cotton-pulp, but having a modified form of detonating primer, a material of tougher description being made use of in its manufacture, to intensify still more the detonating forces generated by its explosion. These will be conducted, we understand, under the personal superintendence of Professor Abel, War Department chemist, and Captain Noble, R. A., members of the committee."

ONE of the Prussian military institutions which has been of late specially commended to their comrades by the reforming class of French officers is that of the regimental court of honor, the use of which is found with the Germans to have greatly modified the former barbarous system of duelling at every slight affront. This form of tribunal was introduced by royal ordinance in 1843, with certain well-defined powers. Any two officers who may happen to quarrel are bound to bring their difference under its cognizance before taking any other step towards wiping out a supposed wrong. The court proceeds to inquire fully, but privately, into the circumstances, and to endeavor to effect such mutual concessions as may lead to an amicable arrangement of the difficulty. The colonel of the regiment is bound to support its recommendations to the utmost of his power, if referred to, as he invariably is, should the court of itself not succeed in effecting a friendly settlement. Only on proof of real personal ill-will, founded on some deep-seated grudge or great wrong, is a duel permitted; the court having power in case of the worst, to permit resort to this ordeal, and the would-be combatants are, after this decision, free from any charge of violating military discipline in fighting. Such a system introduced into the French army would no doubt be a vast improvement on the loose practice which at present encourages the notoriously good swordsmen and pistol-shot to ride roughshod over his less practised comrades. But it does not appear that it would at all affect the general tone of society, which freely allows encounters between officers and civilians. These are sternly prohibited by the military code of Prussia, as by that of Austria; in the former, probably for the political reason that the soldier's individual oath of fidelity to his sovereign ought not to expose him to attack for political causes; in the latter empire, for the kindred reason that in countries forcibly held by the army—as North Italy until lately was—it would never do to expose the officers to be singled out for sacrifice under cover of the duel. On the other hand, if attacked or violently insulted, the Prussian or Austrian officer may defend himself with the weapon he carries without the responsibility of facing a challenge afterwards for his conduct—a privilege which is known to have been often very seriously abused in Venetia and Lombardy, and to have been one strong reason of the intense hostility shown by the better classes to "Il Tedesco" in the days of Italian bondage.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

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MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages FIFTY CENTS each, and the signature and address of the party sending should accompany the notice.]

NESMITH—MANDERSON.—On Monday, 15th inst., at the residence of the bride's mother, Philadelphia, Pa., by the Rev. Wm. Breed, D. D., LOUIS A. NESMITH, U. S. Army, to MARIA, daughter of the late Thomas Manderson. (No cards.)

HEMPHILL—SWENEY.—On Wednesday evening, December 10, at Fort Clark, Texas, by the Rev. Martin Weinayrfieu, First Lieutenant WILLIAM C. HEMPHILL, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, to AGNES MARY, only daughter of First Lieutenant Henry Sweeney, Fourth U. S. Cavalry. (No cards.)

MOROZO—LINCOLN.—At San Francisco, Cal., November 19, by the Rev. Dr. Cunningham, Lieutenant JOHN C. MOROZO, U. S. Navy, to MISS MYRA E. LINCOLN, of New London, Conn. (No cards.)

DIED.

Brief announcements will be inserted under this head without charge. Obituary notices and resolutions should be paid for at the rate of two cents a word, unless it is intended to eat the question of their insertion to the discretion of the editor.

KINZIE.—Suddenly, at Chicago, Ill., on Saturday, December 15, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel ROBERT A. KINZIE, Paymaster U. S. Army, aged 63 years.

BRIERLY.—At Camp Haleck, Nev., on the 18th of December, CONANT, only son of Dr. C. B. and Lucy A. Brierly, aged 3 years.

BURNHAM.—In Lowell, Mass., at the home of his grandparents, December 21, of membranous croup, ARTHUR H., only child of Brevet Major Arthur H. and Mrs. Gertrude Burnham, aged 2 years, 6 months, 7 days.

STATIONS OF THE REGIMENTS OF THE U. S. ARMY, BY COMPANIES.

(DECEMBER 25, 1873.)

We shall be greatly obliged if officers will give us early notice of any changes which may be required in this table.

Regt.	Headquarters.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K
1st	Willett's Pt, NYH	Willett's Pt, NYH	Willett's Pt, NYH	Willett's Pt, NYH	Willett's Pt, NYH	West Point, N Y
2d	Benicia B'cks, Cal	Benicia B'cks, Cal	Fort Klamath, Or	Cp McDermitt, Nev	Benicia B'cks, Cal	Ft Lapwai, I T	Camp Warner, Or	Camp Bidwell, Cal	Camp Harney, Or	Cp Halleck, Nov	Cmp Harney, Or
3d	Ft Sanders, W T Fort McPherson,	Ft Frd Steele, WT Camp Brown, WT	Neb	Camp Douglas, UT	Fort Laramie, WT	Ft Ellis, M T	Ft Ellis, M T	Ft McPherson,	Ft Sanders, W T	Fort Laramie, WT	Fort McPherson,
4th	Ft Clark, Texas	Neb	Ft McPherson, Neb	Ft Fetterman, D. T.	Ft Sanders, W. T.	Ft D. A. Russell, W. T.	Ft D. A. Russell, W. T.	Ft D. A. Russell, W. T.	Ft McPherson, Neb	Fort McPherson, Neb	Fort McPherson, Neb
5th	Ft Clark, Texas	Neb	Ft Clark, Texas	Ft Clark, Texas	Ft Duncan, Tex	Ft Clark, Texas	Ft Clark, Texas	Ft Clark, Texas	Ft Clark, Texas	Ft Clark, Texas	Ft Clark, Texas
6th	Tucson, A T	Cp Verde, AT	Cp Apache, A T	Cp Bowie, A. T.	Cp Lowell, AT	Cp Grant A. T.	Cp Lowell, AT	Cp Grant A. T.	Cp Lowell, AT	Cp Grant A. T.	Cp Lowell, AT
7th	Ft Hayes, Kas.	Ft Wallace, Kas.	Ft Hayes, Kas.	Ft Hayes, Kas.	Ft Gibson, I T	Ft Hayes, Kas.	Ft Hayes, Kas.	Ft Hayes, Kas.	Ft Hayes, Kas.	Camp Supply, I T	Camp Supply, I T
8th	St Paul, Minn	Ft A Lincoln, DT	Ft Union, N M	Ft Wingate, N.M.	Ft Stanton, N M	Ft A Lincoln, DT	Ft A Lincoln, DT	Ft A Lincoln, DT	Ft Totten, D. T.	Port Rice, D. T.	Port Rice, D. T.
9th	Santa Fe, N. M.	Ft Fort, Bayard, N M	Ft Concho, Tex	Ringgold Bks, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft Concho, Tex	Ft Concho, Tex	Ft Concho, Tex	Ft Bayard, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Wingate, N M
10th	Ft Clark, Tex	Ft Concho, Tex	Ft Concho, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Griffin, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Davis, Tex	Ft Brown, Tex	Ft Brown, Tex
11th	Ft Sill, I T	Ft Sill, I T	Ft Sill, I T	Ft Sill, I T	Ft Sill, I T	Ft Sill, I T	Ft Sill, I T	Ft Sill, I T	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex
12th	Charleston, S C	Ft Barrancas, Fla	Ft Augustine, Fla	Savannah, Ga	Key West, Fla	Ft Monroe, Va	Charleston, S C	Charleston, S C	Charleston, S C	Charleston, S C	Charleston, S C
13th	Ft McHenry, Md	Ft McHenry, Md	Ft McHenry, Md	Charleston, S C	Fort Macon, N C	Raleigh, N C	Ft McHenry, Md	Ft McHenry, Md	Ft McHenry, Md	Ft McHenry, Md	Ft McHenry, Md
14th	Ft Hamilton, NYH	Ft Monroe, NY	Ft Niagara, NY	Ft Hamilton, NYH	Ft Madison, B'ks, NY	Ft Hamilt'n NYH	Ft Ontario, N Y	Ft Ontario, N Y	Ft Ontario, N Y	Ft Ontario, N Y	Ft Ontario, N Y
15th	Presidio, Cal	Presidio, Cal	Presidio, Cal	Presidio, Cal	Sitka, Alaska	Sitka, Alaska	Ft Stevens, Or	Ft Stevens, Or	Ft San Jose, Cal	Ft San Jose, Cal	Ft San Jose, Cal
16th	Ft Adams, R I	Ft Adams, R I	Ft Adams, R I	Ft Monroe, Va	Ft Warren, Mass	Ft Independence, Mass	Ft Adams, H I	Ft Adams, H I	Plattburg B'ks, Tex	Plattburg B'ks, Tex	Plattburg B'ks, Tex
17th	Ft Wayne, Mich	Ft Porter, N Y	Ft Wayne, Mich	Ft Wayne, Mich	Ft Mackinac, Mich	Ft Mackinac, Mich	Ft Brady, Mich	Ft Brady, Mich	Ft Gratiot, Mich	Ft Gratiot, Mich	Ft Gratiot, Mich
18th	Mobile, Ala	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga
19th	Ft Riley, Kas.	Ft Dodge, Kas.	Ft Dodge, Kas.	Ft Dodge, Kas.	Ft Riley, Kas.	Ft Riley, Kas.	Ft Riley, Kas.	Ft Riley, Kas.	Ft Riley, Kas.	Ft Riley, Kas.	Ft Riley, Kas.
20th	Ft Bridger, W T	Ft Bridger, W T	Ft Bridger, W T	Ft Bridger, W T	Ft Bridger, W T	Ft Bridger, W T	Ft Bridger, W T	Ft Bridger, W T	Ft Bridger, W T	Ft Bridger, W T	Ft Bridger, W T
21st	Ft Leavenworth, Kas	Ft Leavenworth, Kas	Ft Leavenworth, Kas	Ft Leavenworth, Kas	Ft Larned, Kas	Ft Larned, Kas	Ft Larned, Kas	Ft Larned, Kas	Ft Larned, Kas	Ft Larned, Kas	Ft Larned, Kas
22nd	Ft Buford, D. T.	Ft Ab Lincoln, D. T.	Ft Ab Lincoln, D. T.	Ft Ab Lincoln, D. T.	Ft Buford, D. T.	Ft Shaw, M. T.	Ft Buford, D. T.	Ft Buford, D. T.	Ft Buford, D. T.	Ft Buford, D. T.	Ft Buford, D. T.
23rd	Ft Shaw, M. T.	Ft Fort, Shaw, M. T.	Ft Fort, Shaw, M. T.	Ft Fort, Shaw, M. T.	Ft Shaw, M. T.	Ft Shaw, M. T.	Ft Shaw, M. T.	Ft Shaw, M. T.	Ft Shaw, M. T.	Ft Shaw, M. T.	Ft Shaw, M. T.
24th	Ft D'A Russell, W T	Ft St. Louis, W T	Ft St. Louis, W T	Ft St. Louis, W T	Ft St. Louis, W T	Ft Omaha, Neb	Ft Omaha, Neb	Ft Omaha, Neb	Ft Omaha, Neb	Ft Omaha, Neb	Ft Omaha, Neb
25th	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb
26th	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex
27th	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex
28th	Angel Island, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal
29th	Camp Brown, W T	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT
30th	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T
31st	Ft Garland, C T	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Wingate, N M
32nd	Nashville, Tenn	Lebanon, Ky	Lebanon, Ky	Jackson, Miss	Fort Garland, C T	Ft Bayard, N M	Ft Craig, N M	Ft Craig, N M	Ft Craig, N M	Ft Craig, N M	Ft Craig, N M
33rd	Ft Abercrombie, D. T.	Ft Wadsworth, D. T.	Ft Wadsworth, D. T.	Ft Wadsworth, D. T.	Ft Wadsworth, D. T.	Ft Wadsworth, D. T.	Ft Wadsworth, D. T.	Ft Wadsworth, D. T.	Ft Wadsworth, D. T.	Ft Wadsworth, D. T.	Ft Wadsworth, D. T.
34th	Columbia, S C	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	Columbia, S C	Columbia, S C	Atlanta, Ga	Columbia, S C	Columbia, S C	Columbia, S C	Columbia, S C	Columbia, S C
35th	Jackson Bks, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La	Jackson Bks, La	Baton Rouge, La	Jackson Bks, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La
36th	Ft Snelling, Minn	Ft Sill, D T	Ft Sill, D T	Ft Snelling, Minn	Ft Snelling, Minn	Ft Snelling, Minn	Ft Snelling, Minn	Ft Snelling, Minn	Ft Snelling, Minn	Ft Snelling, Minn	Ft Snelling, Minn
37th	Ft Klamath, Org.	Ft Klamath, Org.	Ft Klamath, Org.	Ft Vancouver, W T	Camp Warner, Or	Ft Colville, W T	Ft Klamath, Or	Ft Klamath, Or	Ft Klamath, I T	Ft Klamath, I T	Ft Klamath, I T
38th	Ft Sully, D T	Ft Sully, D T	Ft Sully, D T	Ft Sully, D T	Ft Sully, D T	Ft Sully, D T	Ft Sully, D T	Ft Sully, D T	Ft Sully, D T	Ft Sully, D T	Ft Sully, D T
39th	Prescott, A T	Camp Verde, A T	Camp Verde, A T	Camp Verde, A T	Camp Lowell, AT	Camp Lowell, AT	Camp Bowles, A. T.	Camp Bowles, A. T.	Camp Bowles, A. T.	Camp Bowles, A. T.	Camp Bowles, A. T.
40th	Ft Duncan, Tex	Ringgold B'ks, Tex	Ringgold B'ks, Tex	Ringgold B'ks, Tex	Ft Duncan, Tex	Ft Duncan, Tex	Ft Brown, Tex	Ft Brown, Tex	New Cp Grant, AT	Camp Apache, AT	Camp Apache, AT
41st	Ft Davis, Tex	Fort Quitman, Tex	Fort Quitman, Tex	Fort Davis, Tex	Fort Davis, Tex	Fort Davis, Tex	Fort Davis, Tex	Fort Davis, Tex	Fort Davis, Tex	Fort Davis, Tex	Ringgold B'ks, Tex

First Cavalry—Companies L and M, Ft Walla Walla, W. T. Second Cavalry—Company L, Ft Ellis, M T; Company M, Omaha, Neb. Third Cavalry—Co. L, Ft. D. A. Russell, W T; Co. M, North Platte, Neb. Fourth Cavalry—Company L, Fort Clark, Tex.; Company M, Fort Duncan, Texas. Fifth Cavalry—Companies L and M, Camp Grant, A T. Sixth Cavalry—Company L, Fort Riley, Kas.; Company M, Fort Lyon, C T. Seventh Cavalry—Company L, Fort A. Lincoln, D. T.; Company M, Fort Rice, D. T. Eighth Cavalry—Company L, Fort Union, N M; Company M, Fort Union, N M. Ninth Cavalry—Company L, Ringgold B'ks, Tex.; Company M, Fort Stockton, Tex. Tenth Cavalry—Company L, Ft Richardson, Tex.; Company M, Fort Sill, I T. First Artillery—Company L, Ft Barrancas, Fla.; Company M, Fort Barrancas, Florida. Second Artillery—Company L, Fort Macon, N. C.; Company M, Fort Johnston, N. C. Third Artillery—Company L, Fort Wood, N Y; Company M, David's Island, N Y H. Fourth Artillery—Company L, Alcatraz Isl, Ca.; Company M, Presidio, Cal. Fifth Artillery—Company L, Fort Adams, R I; Company M, Fort Preble, Me.

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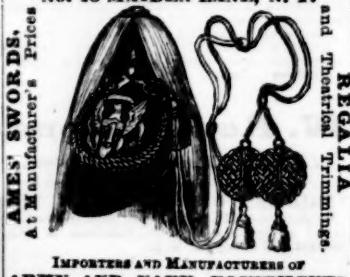
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